

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana has been removed from the list of names for the annual parliamentary prayers, a move that has caused controversy.

Lord Haw Haw's daughter defends her father

Japan wins Security Council seat

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Asian economic giant Japan crushed India on Monday, and Australia was humiliated, in a hotly-contested vote at the United Nations for five non-permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council. The vote, an annual ritual at the U.N. General Assembly, produced a major surprise as Portugal defeated Australia in an upset for Canberra which was forced into a second ballot for a rotating seat reserved for Western states on the 15-member council. The five new members take up their seats for a two-year term from Jan. 1. In secret ballots, Costa Rica, Kenya, Japan and Sweden were elected outright in a first round in which a majority of more than 120 states was required. The toughest competition involved Japan and India, for a seat attributed to Asian states, while Australia, Portugal and Sweden were vying in a three-legged race for two seats reserved for the Western group. Amid charges of "yen diplomacy" levelled against Tokyo, India only managed to obtain 40 votes, while Japan won 142.

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King meets AIPAC delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court a delegation representing the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). During the meeting, the King stressed the need for efforts to boost the Middle East peace process so that comprehensive and just peace could be achieved. Attending the audience were Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Director of the National Security Council His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and International Press Office Director at the Royal Court Princess Ghida Talal.

King consoles Guatemalan leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of condolences to President of Guatemala Alvar Arzoo on the deaths in a stampede at a football match between the national teams of Guatemala and Costa Rica. The King expressed the deepest condolences of the people and government of Jordan for the tragic death of the innocent people at the sporting event. His Majesty wished the families of the bereaved patience and solace.

No quick Arafat visit to Syria

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A senior Palestinian official on Monday denied reports that Yasser Arafat planned to visit Syria in the next few days before the sealing of an accord with Israel about Hebron. "President Arafat will be busy for the next two weeks and has no plans to go to Damascus during that time," said a senior aide to the Palestinian leader. The official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said there were discussions underway, however, about a possible Arafat visit to Damascus in November. "but no date has been set."

Hizbollah attacks Israeli-backed militia

MARIYOUN (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas mounted a string of attacks on the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Monday, security and militia sources said. A Hizbollah spokesman said the guerrillas blew up an SLA patrol was passing along the road to Aalman, inside the Israeli-occupied border zone of South Lebanon. The guerrillas also fired rockets at militia reinforcements who were dispatched to the area after the blast and launched several rockets against a nearby militia position, he said.

Chirac asked Syrians about Brunner

HAIFA (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac asked Syrian leaders during his weekend visit to Damascus about Alois Brunner, the Nazi war criminal believed hiding out in Syria, a French official said Monday. Mr. Chirac asked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during a private meeting Saturday to let a French investigator into the country to look into the topic, said the official who is part of the French president's delegation. Syria has always denied that Brunner has taken refuge in the country.

Chirac urges Israel to accept Palestinian state, leave Golan

France insists on greater European role in peace process

Message to Hussein says Jerusalem must be negotiated

Cumbed agency - dispatches

FRENCH PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac began a visit to Israel on Monday with a call on the Jewish state to accept the creation of a Palestinian state and give the Golan Heights back to Syria.

In a strongly-worded speech at the Technion polytechnic institute in Haifa, Mr. Chirac also called on Israel to withdraw from the buffer zone it occupies in southern Lebanon.

Brushing aside Israeli opposition, he insisted that Europe be given a greater role in the peace process, saying it "cannot be content with being the main provider of funds and the main economic partner for the Middle East."

Mr. Chirac flew into Israel from Damascus on a Middle East tour aimed at reasserting Europe's role in

a Middle East peace process currently dominated by the United States.

But the Israeli leg of the tour has been embroiled in controversy since its inception, with some members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government openly boycotting the trip in protest at Mr. Chirac's perceived pro-Arab and pro-Palestinian bias.

In his speech, Mr. Chirac reaffirmed his critics' fears by pressing Mr. Netanyahu to drop his opposition to the "principle of land-for-peace."

"As long as Palestinians are not able to take charge of their own affairs, as long as they are not entitled to the dignity enjoyed by all other peoples... frustrations and bitterness will persist, and we all know the bitter fruits they produce," Mr. Chirac said.

"On the contrary, a recognised Palestinian state

would provide Israel with a true partner. Only such a partner will be capable of making, and adhering to, the commitments that are necessary for the security of Israel," Mr. Chirac said in his clearest statement to date in favour of Palestinian independence.

Concerning Syria, where Mr. Chirac met President Hafez Al Assad over the weekend, the French president said he was convinced the Syrians "have opted for peace."

"The basic elements of the peace to come are clear to see: Israel is entitled to full recognition and to normal relations with neighbouring countries, Syria is entitled to the return of the Golan Heights," he said.

Mr. Chirac, who will travel to Beirut later in his Middle East tour, said Israel must also withdraw from southern Lebanon as called

(Continued on page 7)

Jordanian Parliament welcomes French president

AMMAN (J.T.) — The opposition parties on Monday issued a statement welcoming French President Jacques Chirac to Jordan and urged him to help put an end to Israel's occupation of Arab lands and the sanctions imposed on Arab countries.

The parliamentary opposition group welcomed the French president to Jordan and highly values the president's stand with regard to the Arab causes, particularly France's position vis-a-vis Israel's obstinate posture and remembers the French president's honourable stand in opposing Israel's aggression on southern Lebanon and France's role towards the conclusion of an agreement that guaranteed the rights of the Lebanese resistance to fight the Israeli occupation forces," the statement said.

Referring to France's positions towards Israel's occupation of lands belonging to three Arab countries, the statement recalled the stand of the late General Charles de Gaulle "in the face of the occupation and aggression which occurred in 1967."

"The opposition group in Parliament supports moves to strengthen Franco-Arab cooperation and strong relations based on mutual interest and respect and call for the participation of the European Union in an effective manner to counter the biased U.S. attitude towards Israel and hopes that France and the European Union will play a more effective role in support of the Arab rights," said the statement.

The statement urged France and the European Union to help put an end to the sanctions imposed on Iraq, Sudan, Libya and Cuba and restore the credibility of the United Nations in the eyes of the various nations.

It said the bloc hopes that the French president's visit would boost French-Jordanian relations and mark the beginning of further meetings designed to uphold the principles of right, justice and equality.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi on Monday expressed Jordan's deep appreciation of France's policy towards the issues of the Middle East region.

"The French position emanates from the principles of right freedom and justice in which France and Jordan believe and strive to establish," said Mr. Lawzi during a visit to Parliament by French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bujole.

Mr. Lawzi described President Chirac's visit as extremely important for boosting bilateral ties and expressed hope that France would play a key role in reestablishing peace and



RABIN MEMORIAL: An Israeli workman on Monday levels the Tel Aviv site where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated one year ago ahead of setting up a memorial there at a Nov. 2 rally to mark the anniversary of the murder. A gunman opposed to Rabin's Middle East policy killed the Israeli leader after a peace rally at the square last Nov. 4 (Reuters photo)

No temporary laws ahead of House session, Kabariti says

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Monday his government would not enact any draft legislation as temporary law ahead of the beginning of the legislature's regular session next month in what was seen as reaffirmation of his commitment to working closely with Parliament.

Official sources said, however, that the prime minister was likely to seek to convince Parliament and secure its approval for the enactment of at least a draft law on customs.

The draft law is seen vital to improving the investment climate in Jordan and international experts said it was desirable to have it in place before the mid-November Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Cairo.

The draft legislation exempts nearly 500 items from customs duties, reduces tariffs on others and clears a major part of the bureaucratic delays involved in clearing imports through the Customs Department.

Businessmen led by the Amman Chamber of Industry have been lobbying the government for the enactment of the draft as a temporary law along with several others, including those related to companies, the stock market and foodstuffs.

Mr. Kabariti's affirmation that no legislation would be enacted as temporary laws came during a meeting he had with Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour at the Parliament House for discussions on a scheduled address to the legislature by French President Jacques Chirac on Thursday.

"The government is committed to its pledges contained in the government's policy statement and will not enact any temporary law as no urgent business requires such measure," he said.

Mr. Srour told journalists that the prime minister's visit to Parliament came as part of continued coordination and consultation between the legislative and executive authorities.

He said that the Lower

House does not support the idea of passing temporary laws. "If economic laws are needed, their endorsement by the House gives them durability and offers more reassurances than temporary laws," said Mr. Srour.

According to Mr. Srour, the government has committed itself not to enact any temporary law while a Lower House of Parliament exists.

Mr. Srour said he discussed with Mr. Kabariti arrangements for starting Parliament's ordinary session on Nov. 19 and reviewed preparations for the French president's address to the House on Thursday.

Official sources, speaking to the Jordan Times earlier in the day, stressed that the government was trying to impress upon Parliament the importance to the draft law on customs.

The officials, however, emphasised that the government would not unilaterally enact the draft and was committed to seeking Parliament's agreement on the

(Continued on page 7)

Ross returns to U.S. without deal on Hebron, but will come back

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross called an end Monday to his non-stop 16-day mediation effort between Israelis and Palestinians with the two sides still far apart on the key issue of an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr. Ross told a press conference he was returning to Washington Monday evening, leaving U.S. Ambassador Murin Indyk and the American Consul General in Jerusalem Edward Abington to stay "actively involved" in negotiations during his absence.

"I will be in contact with them (and) when I deem it right to come back, I will come back," he said.

Mr. Ross denied press reports he had given the two sides an "ultimatum" that he would leave if progress on Hebron was not made.

King, in contacts with Arafat, Netanyahu and Ross, stresses need to bridge gaps

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday exchanged views over the phone with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and American Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross. The King discussed with them the latest developments in the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track and stressed the need for efforts to remove all obstacles and bridging the gaps between the Palestinians and Israel.

"This is not a pressure tactic, there is a natural break here in the negotiations," he said.

The U.S. diplomat met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday and with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat the night before in Gaza City to inform them of his decision.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher downplayed the significance of Mr. Ross' return to Washington.

"There is not any problem on our part for a ceasefire and we hope that will take place soon," he said, adding that the number of prisoners to be swapped had not yet been determined.

But Mr. Munagi, who accepted that the ceasefire had not yet taken effect as heavy fighting was continuing north of Kabul late Monday, said no date had yet been arranged for a halt to hostilities.

He said the timing depended on Gen. Dostum and Mr. Masood.

"No date has yet been fixed as the mediators went to Mazar-e-Sharif yesterday, they have not yet brought back any reply from the other side," Mr. Munagi said.

Reports from Mazar-e-Sharif said earlier that two and half hours of talks between Gen. Dostum and

(Continued on page 7)

Afghan talks end without agreement on ceasefire

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (Agencies) — Talks between Afghan warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum and Pakistani Interior Minister Nasserullah Babar ended here Monday without finalising a ceasefire agreement, a spokesman said.

"We have not reached a compromise on the proposals for peace in Afghanistan," said General Mohammed Yousef, a spokesman for General Dostum.

Gen. Dostum, who controls six northern Afghan provinces, made the ceasefire proposal on Sunday.

In Kabul, the ruling Taliban militia said it was ready to accept an unconditional ceasefire with all factions in the Afghan conflict.

The comment by acting Information and Culture Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi came hours after a pro-

posed ceasefire between the Taliban and forces of the ousted Afghan government from 0730 GMT Monday failed to come into force.

Warring Afghan factions ignored the proposals. The two sides have been fighting fierce battles as the ex-government's top commander Ahmad Shah Masood advanced towards Kabul which he fled as the Taliban overran the city just three weeks ago.

Mr. Muttaqi's remarks apparently contrasted with Taliban's stance in their base in the southwestern city of Kandahar, where officials earlier said a ceasefire would be conditional to an exchange of prisoners.

"First of all there should be a ceasefire, after that negotiations should take place concerning the release of prisoners from both sides," Mr. Muttaqi told journalists in Kabul.

(Continued on page 7)

Kurds continue to battle as U.S. tries to broker truce

ERBIL (Agencies) — Rival Kurdish factions batted for control of key areas of northern Iraq on Monday, sending refugees streaming to Iran, while a U.S. envoy began talks in neighbouring Turkey aimed at securing a truce.

In Tehran, officials said thousands of Kurds had crossed into Iran over the weekend to escape the fighting between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Kurdish guerrillas known as Peshmergas fought for a third day on Monday with automatic weapons, mortars, howitzers, and rocket-propelled grenades around the towns of Qala-Diza to the north and Dukan to the west of Sulaimaniyah, a U.N. official said.

Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, said meanwhile the KDP appeared ready for a ceasefire.

Mr. Pelletreau met with KDP leader Massoud Barzani, in the southeastern town of Silopi near the Iraqi border.

"Barzani appears willing to have a ceasefire," the Anatolian news agency quot-

ed Mr. Pelletreau as saying. "Barzani wants a good future for his country. Talks with the two sides will continue."

Mr. Barzani confirmed that further talks would take place. "The talks have been positive," he added, according to Anatolia.

Mr. Pelletreau was scheduled to meet with Mr. Barzani's rival, PUK leader Jalal Talabani, in Ankara on Tuesday.

Mr. Barzani's group allied with the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein against the Iranian-backed PUK, prompting the United States to retaliate with cruise missile attacks on Iraqi air-defense sites in early September.

But Mr. Barzani reassured Mr. Pelletreau during their first meeting in Ankara last month that his alliance with President Saddam was temporary.

Mr. Talabani's forces were pushed into Iran, but they launched an offensive this month and retook some of the ground lost.

lashed a de-facto state in northern Iraq under the protection of a U.S.-led allied air force since the end of Gulf war. But their internal conflicts over sharing of power led to its collapse.

According to a Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, the United States ultimately wants to revive a peace accord it brokered between the two sides back in August 1995.

Mr. Pelletreau was also scheduled to meet leaders of some 250,000 Turkomans of Turkish origin living in northern Iraq, a Turkish foreign ministry spokesman, Sermet Atacanh, said Monday.

Turkey wants the Turkomans to receive the same kind of protection that is extended to the Kurds and to be part of the local administration.

On the battlefield, the KDP withdrew from a town in northern Iraq and abandoned an assault on a strategic dam under heavy artillery fire from a rival militia, witnesses said.

Thousands of KDP fighters fled the Dukkan dam in a fleet of buses, minibuses

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Taleban must respect human rights — U.N.

KABUL (AFP) — United Nations special envoy Norbert Holl said Monday he warned the Taleban militia not to ignore human rights in Afghanistan.

"The human rights issue, from scratch, was very high on my agenda," said Mr. Holl, speaking to foreign journalists in the Afghan capital.

Mr. Holl said the U.N. could not "sit idle" and say it was up to the Taleban how they dealt with the issue of human rights.

He said that religious law which the Taleban interpret very strictly in Afghanistan, was what he defined "to a certain extent as a human rights issue."

The U.N. special mediator referred specifically to "discrimination along gender lines" — referring to the Taleban ban on Afghan women working in public places, and the ban on girls going to school.

The Taleban, who began their quest to install an Islamic government in Afghanistan two years ago, seized Kabul from forces loyal to former President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Sept. 27.

Mr. Holl said the United Nations could act only as a mediator between the Taleban and ex-government forces and it was up to the Afghan people themselves to decide on possible future peace talks.

But Mr. Holl said the issue of human rights was not up to the Afghan people or their leaders alone to decide — as a member of the United Nations, the country was bound by certain rules if it wanted to retain its membership.

"Whoever is controlling Afghanistan is bound by the charter of the U.N.," said Mr. Holl, who arrived in Kabul Monday for talks with the Taleban leadership here.

He said he made a comparison between the U.N. Charter and the Holy Koran to impress upon the Taleban how important the document was regarded in the international community.

"The U.N. Charter is as

much binding on me as the Koran is binding for you," he told them.

Mr. Holl said the Taleban understood that acceptance of the U.N. Charter was serious — "particularly if in return they want something like recognition."

Mr. Holl said the human rights issue would also have an impact on much needed international assistance.

"In the long run, help for construction will only come from the international community," he said, adding most of humanitarian aid now reaching Kabul is channelled through U.N. agencies.

For Taleban who may be contemplating seeking bilateral aid from neighbouring countries rather than U.N. aid, Mr. Holl said, "I told the Taleban today that even a small country like Switzerland may have a larger gross national product than the neighbours of Afghanistan." "This you have to bear in mind when you assess your options," was Mr. Holl's parting advice to the Taleban.



Taleban militiamen manoeuvre in the village of Hussein Kot, about 18 kilometres outside Kabul, after taking two hills in the vicinity from the forces of the ousted government on Monday (Reuters photo)

Ex-emir of Qatar to return home soon, official says

DUBAI (R) — Qatar's deposed emir is expected to return home soon from self-imposed exile following an agreement over missing funds, a cabinet minister said in remarks published on Monday.

"God willing, His Royal Highness Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, the father (of all Qataris), is returning to Qatar soon," Justice Minister Najeeb Mohammad Al Nuaimi told Al Khaleej newspaper in the United Arab Emirates.

"Qatar is his hometown, and he is always welcome to return without any conditions. Our gates are also open to his entourage."

Qatar on Sunday announced it had ended a row over billions of dollars missing from state coffers since Sheikh Khalifa was toppled by his son, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, in a bloodless palace coup last year.

A Justice Ministry

statement quoted by Qatar's official news agency said the government was dropping all lawsuits against the deposed emir in return for settling accounts at the centre of their dispute.

Mr. Nuaimi said he could not specify the amount of the disputed funds because they would be determined by the settlement.

"But what is important is that their amount is not as large as was carried by the Arab and foreign media."

Unofficial estimates said the sum controlled by Sheikh Khalifa since his ouster ranged from \$3 billion to \$7 billion.

Authorities in Britain, France and Switzerland blocked bank accounts controlled by the former emir earlier this year at the request of the new government in Doha.

France joins Iraq flights

RIYADH (AFP) — French fighter pilots have for the first time joined U.S. and British warplanes in flying reconnaissance missions over southern Iraq, a U.S. air force spokesman said Monday.

The French, who used to provide only escort for U.S. and British warplanes, have begun flying the missions from bases in Saudi Arabia as far north as the 32nd Parallel in southern Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Bourland said.

The French have refused to fly to the 33rd Parallel, the boundary of an extended no-fly zone which the United States imposed last month in retaliation for an Iraqi military incursion into northern Kurdish areas.

Western diplomats in Riyadh said eight French warplanes including three Mirage F1-CR, which are equipped for reconnaissance missions, arrived in Saudi Arabia at the end of last week.

Col. Bourland did not know the exact date the French began their new missions.

Cyprus rivals launch U.N.-sponsored talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — United Nations-sponsored talks have started in Cyprus to defuse tension on the divided island where five people died this year, a U.N. envoy said on Monday.

"The talks are underway and we are going to pursue them very energetically," said Gustave Feissel, resident representative of the U.N. secretary-general in Cyprus.

"We expect the two sides will cooperate with us so that we can reach an agreement very quickly and without delay," he said after a meeting with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides.

Turkey invaded the northern third of Cyprus in July 1974 after a Greek Cypriot coup backed by the military regime ruling in Athens at the time.

Some 30,000 Turkish troops are based in north Cyprus — declared a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in 1983 and recognised only by Ankara.

The U.N. hopes to reach agreement between the two sides for the temporary unmaning of sentry posts along the 180-kilometre long ceasefire line slicing the island. The agreement prohibits the use of loaded weapons and establishes a military code of conduct.

"It is a technical military step to reduce tension," a U.N. spokesman said.

Tension on the island has increased considerably this year with the killings of three

Greek Cypriot civilians and one Greek Cypriot soldier in separate incidents along the U.N.-controlled buffer zone dividing the two communities. Last month, a Turkish Cypriot soldier was found shot dead at his post near the zone.

Seven years ago the U.N. brokered an agreement for the unmaning of sentry posts in the capital Nicosia, where the two sides are in close proximity.

Efforts to extend this unmaning agreement had been underway since then. They were temporarily interrupted in the summer after the buffer zone incidents, a U.N. spokesman said.

Mr. Feissel said the peace-keeping force UNFICYP, mediating the indirect military talks, has proposals on barring loaded weapons and unmaning posts along the "green line" where rival forces are in closest proximity.

A similar accord was struck in 1989 to unman hotspots in Nicosia.

Mr. Feissel said the new talks were not a substitute for a U.S. proposal in July to open a dialogue between the military commanders of the Greek Cypriot National Guard and Turkish occupation forces.

The dialogue has failed to materialise because of a row over whether Turkish Cypriot forces should also be involved.

Israeli reporter visited Syria with Chirac

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli reporter officially representing the Jerusalem Post newspaper was allowed to visit Syria during French President Jacques Chirac's weekend visit to Damascus, French officials said on Monday.

Eldad Beck, who travelled on an Austrian passport which shows he was born in Israel, was a member of the press party which accompanied Mr. Chirac.

French officials said Mr. Chirac's office had intervened with the Syrian authorities to win approval to take him along as a goodwill gesture in the stalled Middle East peace process.

Mr. Chirac personally asked Mr. Beck not to file any reports until they had left Damascus to avoid upsetting President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Beck told Reuters he was officially authorised to interview the head of the small remaining Jewish community in Syria, Yusef Jajati, but was not allowed to ask a question at a joint Chirac-Assad news conference on Sunday.

Israel tank crew to train urban warfare

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has decided to train its tank crews for urban warfare in the West Bank following last month's armed clashes with Palestinian policemen that left over 80 dead, the army weekly Bamahane reported Monday.

"We intend to teach all those in the field, from the level of non-commissioned officer to company commander, how to define and aim tank fire at targets in a built-up area," the commander for the main training base for West Bank forces told the magazine.

The aim of the new training, he said, was to "minimise losses among our ranks and civilians."

"Tank warfare in built-up zones is very complex," added the officer, identified only as Colonel Yehuda.

"We hope to teach our tank operators how to aim at a particular target... we will train soldiers to be better at pinpointing sources of fire in a crowd," he said.

"This is a problem of all combat in built-up areas and now it has become a very real issue," he said, referring to three days of unprecedented street battles across the West Bank and Gaza Strip in late September.

During the unrest, Palestinian police opened fire on Israeli troops after the soldiers used live ammunition

against stone-throwing civilian protestors. The clashes left 69 Palestinians dead, mostly civilians. Fifteen Israeli soldiers were killed.

A member of parliament from the left-wing Meretz Party, Ran Cohen, denounced the decision to prepare tank units for conflict in the West Bank as "stupid" and called on Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to rescind the order.

During last month's fighting, the army deployed tanks around Palestinian self-rule areas for the first time, but did not open fire with them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

British minister holds talks in Bahrain

DUBAI (R) — Britain's minister for the armed forces held talks on Monday with Bahrain's emir as part of a two-day visit, the official Gulf News Agency reported. It was Nicholas Soames and the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa, discussed bilateral relations and regional developments. Mr. Soames, who arrived on Sunday, was scheduled to go to Saudi Arabia on Monday night, a British embassy spokesman said.

Iran-made helicopter to fly in 1998

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran will fly a locally-manufactured helicopter by the beginning of 1998, a newspaper said Sunday. Shahed X-5, a non-combat helicopter, is the first to be manufactured in Iran and will be used for reconnaissance missions, relief operations and training, the Farsi-language daily Kar Va Kargar said. The four-seat helicopter has a speed of 180 kilometres per hour and can fly for a distance of 400 kilometres before refuelling, the newspaper quoted Saeed Ziaee, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps body for industrial research and development. Mr. Ziaee said that there were plans to manufacture 50 helicopters, and resources and financial support are provided. Jal Fakhri, head of the helicopter industries research centre of the Revolutionary Guards, said the cost of building the Shahed X-5 is \$250,000. A similar foreign-made helicopter would cost \$900,000, he added.

Iran holds war games in Gulf of Oman

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian navy is holding four days of war games in the Gulf of Oman, staging manoeuvres to capture coastal areas, the official news agency IRNA reported Monday. The exercises in waters off the Shah-Bahar region of southeast Iran opened "successfully" on Sunday. "The naval forces are to carry out patrol, rescue and diving operations as well as capturing coastal areas and destroying equipment and ammunition of the hypothetical enemy," IRNA said. Iran's armed forces hold around 40 exercises a year in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

Algerian president arrives in Vietnam

HANOI (AFP) — Algeria's President Liamine Zeroul arrived in Vietnam Monday for a three-day official visit aimed at improving economic cooperation, diplomatic sources said. Mr. Zeroul is the first Algerian president to visit Vietnam in 22 years. His delegation, visiting Vietnam after a trip to China, includes five ministers, among them Foreign Minister Ahtoad Ataf. Soon after his arrival, the Algerian president reviewed an honour guard with his counterpart, Le Duc Anh. Two accords are to be signed during the trip, one on boosting and protecting investment and the other on communications and culture, the sources said. Links between the two have traditionally been strong as both were former French colonies that fought independence wars. But bilateral trade is low and Algeria has no investment in Vietnam. On Monday Mr. Zeroul was to hold talks with Le Duc Anh and General Vo Nguyen Giap, while on Tuesday he is to meet Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Communist Party chief Do Muoi.

Main militant group in Libya halts operations

CAIRO (AFP) — Libya's main militant organisation, the Fighting Islamic Group, has decided to suspend armed attacks on the government for a limited time, its spokesman said Monday. "The policy of the group for now, but not for long, will be not to carry out military attacks for reasons I'd rather not give," spokesman Abu Bakr Al Sherif said in comments published in the Arab daily Al Hayat. He said that "difficulties sometimes prevent some military operations from being executed." "We don't claim that the regime will fall today or tomorrow with a magic wand," he added, saying that his group is preparing "a well-studied plan" for overthrowing the government of Colonel Muammar Qadhafi. Mr. Sherif ruled out any coordination with the secular Libyan opposition while saying his organisation was ready to cooperate with "all those who accept Islam as their religion and way of life." But he criticised the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, which, he said, "committed a lot of extortion and has adopted a deviant line since Gamal Zilouli became its chief."

Algiers mayor killed in clash with rebels

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algiers Mayor Ali Boucetta was killed by a stray bullet Monday during a clash between security forces and rebels in the city centre, witnesses said. The official news agency APS also reported that Boucetta was killed, but it did not say how. Witnesses told AFP that Boucetta was standing on his balcony when he was hit by gunfire as security forces fought a commando in the Telemly district of downtown Algiers. Unconfirmed reports said several rebels were killed in the gunbattle. Boucetta was the head of a city government panel with responsibility for downtown Algiers, making him in effect mayor. Such panels were created by the military-backed government to replace previous district mayors who were Islamists.

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14:05 Budgie
14:20 Adventure on the Rainbow Pond
14:30 I Love Lucy
15:00 Sciences Cartoon
15:15 Magazine — Montage
16:00 At The Zoo
16:30 ALF
17:00 News Flash
17:01 Fun With Physics
17:15 Road To Avonlea
18:00 Serie — La Lumiere des Jusies
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Extra Large
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Murphy Brown
20:00 Magazine — Zero One
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:30 China Beach
23:15 Mission Impossible
23:59 Are You Being Served

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhur
14:31 'Asr
17:01 Maghreb
18:18 'Isha

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St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 652536

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A cold air mass will affect the Kingdom today causing a depression to last for three days.

Temperatures are expected to drop significantly with skies partly cloudy. Rain is expected to fall in all areas and winds becoming southwesterly active.

In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly active, and there will be a chance for scattered showers.

Amman 14/24

Aqaba 20/31

Deserts 14/28

Jordan Valley 19/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Afif Shukri 898863

Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827195

Dr. Sa'ad Tarfah 788285

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakr 276852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rafiq Atallah 994422

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information (RJ)

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (N) 983323

Zarqa National Hospital (N) 991056/1

Ibn Sina Hospital (N) 9986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (N) 999199/1

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (N) 1275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (N) 1272275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:00 Damascus (RJ)

07:25 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

08:40 Sana'a, Aqaba (RJ)

09:20 Beirut (RJ)

Lacking clear poll mandate, Hashimoto faces wrangling

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Monday began what was expected to be protracted negotiations to secure a majority after voters denied his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) a clear mandate in general elections.

The LDP secured 239 seats in Sunday's voting, 12 short of the 251 it needed to govern alone in the 500-seat lower house.

The result pointed to a second term for Mr. Hashimoto, but only after days if not weeks of the sort of political turmoil that has plagued Japan since the election in 1993 which put the LDP out of office for the first time in 38 years, analysts said.

"The political situation will remain unstable and weak government will continue," said political commentator Minoru Morita. "The main point in Japanese politics now is how soon or how late the next elections will be held." Mr. Hashimoto, the LDP president, was to meet Monday evening with the heads of Sakigake and the Social Democrats, his minority partners in the outgoing government which both emerged from Sunday's polls at a fraction of their former strength.

"We cannot run parliament smoothly alone and we have first called on our allies, Sakigake and the Social Democrats," said LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato.

Sakigake, with only two seats in the lower chamber, has shown it is keen to stay in the ruling camp. But the



Japan's main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) head Ichiro Ozawa twists his face as he talks to reporters at the party election campaign headquarters in Tokyo Monday. Mr. Ozawa conceded defeat for his group after Sunday's general elections (Reuters photo)

Social Democrats, with 15 in the lower house and a critical 32 in the upper house where the LDP is weak, remains noncommittal.

While the LDP publicly courted the two minority parties, its lawmakers worked behind the scenes to lure defectors from the main opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), whose unity appeared in doubt after a disappointing poor election showing.

"I believe the number of Shinshinto members that will cross over is in the double digits," senior LDP official Shizuka Kamei said in a televised interview.

Shinshinto secured 156 seats, four fewer than before. The Yomiuri Shimbun daily newspaper reported that ten members of Shinshinto would meet in Tokyo Monday to formalise their plan to quit the party and work with the LDP.

The rebels-in-waiting were led by Hiroshi Kumagai, a former trade minister and staunch critic of Shinshinto head Ichiro Ozawa. Mr. Ozawa is under pressure to stand down after the disappointing poll showing.

Analysts said the LDP could woo minority groups with limited clout of their own to avoid having to make policy compromises with the Democratic Party, a 52-seat group that demands drastic reform pledges before joining a coalition.

"If he can pull together independents, Shinshinto rebels, and small groups, none of those would have enough strength to pull down the government," said John Neuffer, a political analyst at Mitsui Marine Research Institute.

As Tokyo's political district of Nagatscho returned to horse trading as usual, Japanese newspapers urged the LDP to accept its limited mandate humbly and blamed all major parties for a record-low turnout of just over 59 per cent.

"The LDP should not get too full of itself," the liberal daily Asahi Shimbun said in an editorial comment. "Not only did it fail to win a majority under an electoral system that favoured the ruling party, it was overall political stability — rather than specific policies — that the voters chose."

The messy outcome leaves many unanswered questions about economic policies as Japan, emerging from a lengthy slump, struggles to clear a path to future growth.



Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is all smiles in front of an election campaign poster of himself at the Liberal Democratic Party headquarters in Tokyo before addressing a news conference Monday. Mr. Hashimoto said Monday that Japan's election results showed his party had not fully regained public confidence, but he pledged to stay at the helm in a new coalition following Sunday's general elections (Reuters photo)

Almost quarter million Hutu refugees flee Zaire fighting

KIGALI (R) — Almost a quarter million Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees have abandoned all their 12 camps around the Zairean town of Uvira, where the army is battling Tutsi rebels, a U.N. refugee agency spokesman said Monday.

Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda, told Reuters some 221,000 refugees were on the move towards another eastern Zairean town, Bukavu, already cut off from Uvira by the Banyamulenge Tutsi rebels.

The Banyamulenge are ethnic Tutsis who came to Zaire from Rwanda at the end of the 18th century.

"The reports we are getting say all 12 refugee camps (in Uvira) are empty. Some 221,000 refugees are estimated to be moving northwards through the camp chain towards Bukavu," said Mr. Stromberg.

He added: "The roads are blocked by rebels and all the villages are empty of civilians as well. Both civilians and refugees are moving into the hills. There is continuing fighting around Bwegera, midway between

Uvira and Bukavu." Aid sources said late Sunday heavy fighting was continuing in and around Uvira, adding that between 4,000 and 5,000 Zaireans had moved into the town from the south. Fighting was said to be going on in the town itself and in the region to the south.

Earlier Monday, the United Nations said it had started to evacuate humanitarian staff from eastern Zaire, as battles between the Banyamulenge and the Zaire's ragged army intensified.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Rwanda Omar Bakhet told Reuters the evacuation operation that began late Sunday had already moved 20 humanitarian staff out of the war zone.

Mr. Bakhet could not say if the operation, which was continuing, would involve non-U.N. staff.

"The evacuation operation to take humanitarian staff out of Uvira has already started. It started last night. So far around 20 humanitarian staff have been evacuated," said Mr. Bakhet. "The operation is continuing."

Aid workers said Banyamulenge Tutsi rebels had cut the highway between the eastern Zaire provincial towns of Bukavu and Uvira.

Mr. Bakhet said the world body was also evacuating staff from the city of Goma, unaffected by the fighting, but he could not give reasons.

"We have also evacuated some staff from Goma into Gisenyi (Rwandan town)," he said.

Humanitarian workers in Uvira itself said many people had been killed and wounded in renewed fighting between the Zairean military and Banyamulenge rebels north of the town.

With the conflict looking likely to draw in the armies of neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi, both dominated by Tutsis, the U.N. dispatched envoy Ibrahim Fall to try and defuse tension.

Military sources said Saturday Zairean soldiers were being resupplied with heavy weapons to respond to attacks by ethnic Tutsis, whom Zaire says have been sent by neighbouring Rwanda via Burundi to destabilise its eastern region.

Aleman claims victory in Nicaragua poll

MANAGUA (AFP) — Conservative coffee grower Arnoldo Aleman appeared Monday to have defeated Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega in early tallies in Nicaragua's presidential vote.

With six per cent of polling stations reporting, Mr. Ortega had 39 per cent of the ballot, according to figures read on nationwide television by Rosa Marina Zelaya, head of the supreme electoral council.

And Mr. Aleman, 50, a former Managua mayor running in just his second election, had 48 per cent of the vote, electoral officials said Monday.

Mr. Aleman claimed victory a little after 4:30 a.m. (10:30 GMT), in a brief speech to supporters aimed at welcoming the opposition into the liberal alliance.

"I offer my hand to Conservatives, Social Democrats, Sandinistas, Communists, to all Nicaraguans," he said. "Nicaraguans are children of the same fatherland — Nicaragua."

Mr. Ortega's Sandinista Party had not conceded defeat when Mr. Aleman spoke.

The next question is whether Mr. Aleman, if his victory is confirmed, can deliver on promises made to move to the center, or create jobs for the 53 per cent of Nicaraguans who are jobless or underemployed.

Some of Mr. Ortega's sup-

porters feared violence if Mr. Aleman won because of his links to the Somoza Dynasty (1935-1979). He has acknowledged belonging to a youth group allied with the family.

And Mr. Aleman was jailed and lost property in the expropriations of the 1979-1990 Sandinista government, then headed by Mr. Ortega.

Mr. Aleman has taken a moderate tone in campaign speeches even as he has harshly criticized the Sandinistas for economic mismanagement and a property grab before they left power in 1990, but he has also pledged that his administration would not try to settle scores from the past.

Mr. Ortega, also 50, also tried to move toward the center of Nicaragua's polarized political system, apologizing for the excesses of the sandinista rule and pledging to do better if re-elected.

Mr. Ortega's defeat is the second in as many votes. He was also defeated by compromise candidate Violeta Chamorro in 1990, 11 years after the Sandinistas tossed out the Somozas and seized power.

The mood at Mr. Aleman's liberal alliance headquarters was ebullient.

Red banners hung down from the facade, which was festooned with huge bunches of red balloons. Red is the official color of the campaign.

Supporters wearing red



Liberal Alliance presidential candidate Arnoldo Aleman casts his vote Sunday as Nicaragua's second peaceful general elections got underway (Reuters photo)

clothing of all types — or with red bumperstickers with Mr. Aleman's name stuck to their clothes — greeted friends and waited expectantly. The crowd cheered as a live Latin Oom-Pah band began playing.

The election was a marathon, with poll workers arriving at their stations before seven Sunday, monitoring voting that did not end until well after the 6 p.m. (2400 GMT) official closing time. Then they laboriously counted each of six paper ballots by hand.

Voters had two concerns in this election. The first was their pocketbook. President Chamorro was able to end a civil war that dominated Nicaragua in the 1980s but her victory over hyperinflation sent per capita income plunging.

The Central American nation is the second poorest in the hemisphere after Haiti. In addition to choosing a president, voters elected a national assembly, representatives to the Central American parliament, mayors and town councils.

Despite late starts, long lines, waits of six hours and uncertain supplies of ballot materials in the countryside appeared to be symptoms of inefficiency rather than of fraud, international observers said.

The Organisation of American States characterised the problems as a "discomfort" to voters, while the European Union said that Nicaraguans were "generally able" to exercise their right to vote.

Plane crash kills 8 in Canada

EEL RIVER CROSSING, New Brunswick (R) — Eight people returning from a hunting trip were Sunday when their twin-engine plane crashed and burned in eastern Canada, police said.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the piper Nahavo was on its way to Bangor, Maine, from Anticosti Island in Quebec when it radioed the airport in Charlottetown, New Brunswick that it had mechanical problems.

The plane was a few kilometres from Charlottetown when it went down about noon (1500 GMT) near the village of Eel River Crossing. Police said they found no survivors when they arrived shortly after the crash.

Police said the plane was owned by Telford Aviation in Waterville, Maine. The

pilot was identified as Michael Burns, of Waterville. Company officials declined comment.

The names of the seven passengers were not immediately released, but authorities said all were U.S. citizens and a spokesman of the Lowell, Massachusetts, police department said three were law enforcement officers in the city.

The victims were returning from an elk hunting trip in Quebec, according to the RCMP.

Witnesses told reporters that the plane narrowly missed several houses and burst into flames after it crashed in a field in this village not far from Chaleur Bay in northern New Brunswick.

German foreign minister in China

BEIJING (AFP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel arrived on a fence-mending visit to China Monday but pledged to discuss specific dissident cases and human rights issues with his hosts.

"I will talk about human rights issues in a very open way, but it should be without confrontations," Mr. Kinkel told journalists who accompanied him on the three-day visit to Beijing.

"I hope I will get some results," he added.

Mr. Kinkel was originally scheduled to visit in July, but Beijing cancelled his trip after the German parliament passed a resolution criticizing human rights in Tibet. Other German moves on human rights also annoyed the Chinese government.

The row was finally ended when Mr. Kinkel met his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in New York in September.

"Qian Qichen and I have agreed to pursue, in a constructive manner, dialogue on human rights questions,"

said Mr. Kinkel.

"It is important for our two countries to improve relations because China plays an important role in Asia, as Germany does in Europe," he added.

"China is also on the way to becoming a world power. I hope we will be able to build our relations with a view to the future," said the German minister.

Both sides hope the trip will be more than an emergency repair exercise, as Germany's President Roman Herzog is to boost ties further with an official visit to China in November.

But Mr. Kinkel confirmed he would not change Germany's stance on human rights, in spite of the conciliatory nature of the trip.

European diplomats have privately expressed concern that such an approach could cause China to retaliate by starting the subversion trial of Chinese dissident Wang Dan during Mr. Kinkel's visit.

Mr. Wang dan faces four charges of subversion because of articles he wrote

criticizing the Chinese government and because he organized a self-help group for dissidents released from jail.

"It is important for our two countries to improve relations because China plays an important role in Asia and Germany plays an important role in Europe," Mr. Kinkel told accompanying journalists.

"China is on the verge of becoming a world power and I hope that our bilateral relations will be built up with a long term perspective," he added.

Both China and Germany have been working hard to improve relations frayed by the June standoff on Tibet and in addition to meeting with Qian Qichen, Mr. Kinkel is scheduled to hold talks with President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng.

Mr. Kinkel's visit "will be a step forward for Sino-German relations," foreign ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a media briefing last Thursday.

Polynesians launch hunt for GI fathers

PAPEETE (AFP) — A group from the French Polynesian island of Bora Bora has launched a search for missing GI fathers, half a century after the island was turned into a World War II supply base by U.S. forces. The Tumu Ii Amae-Eisenhower Foundation has been set up to locate the fathers of some 175 islanders, half a century after 5,000 U.S. Marines were stationed on Bora Bora, 280 kilometres northwest of Tahiti. The organizer, Louis Charles Tama, said the move was taken so that "we children of war may end the personal mourning which 'father unknown' on a birth certificate represents." The association, which held its first meeting last week, may also hold talks with American authorities on obtaining U.S. citizenship. Between December 1942 and June 1946 Operation "Bobcat" turned Bora Bora into a support base for U.S. forces in the Pacific war. Some of the GIs' Polynesian children are now grandparents themselves, and accept that contacts with their fathers may be limited even if they do trace them. Paul Maraero, 52, only met his American father after the latter's wife died, and then for a mere two hours. "He admitted to me that he had always been ashamed to admit to her that he had a Polynesian son," Mr. Maraero said.

Joint legalisation push on U.K. cannabis

LONDON (R) — Mick Marlow, imprisoned for writing a book on cultivating marijuana, spent his first full day of freedom in a dilapidated London cinema lobbying for legislation of the drug. The "annual conference on cannabis" brought together enthusiasts who smoked and inhaled throughout a day celebrating cannabis and its many uses in industry, food, medicine and, of course, relaxation. Veggie burgers containing hemp seeds, clothing made of hemp and smoking paraphernalia were on sale. Marijuana seeds — legal as long as they aren't germinated — were available. Cannabis possession remains illegal in Britain and growing it can attract heavy prison sentences.

Grin and bear it: The teddy market is rallying

NEW YORK (R) — The bear market has arrived and it's growing. Not stocks, but teddy bears, which impart a warm fuzzy feeling, especially if you have a \$170,000 Steiff original from 1904. At a Christie's London auction in 1994, a collector bid a record £110,000 (\$169,200) on behalf of toy manufacturer Yoshihiro Sekiguchi for teddy girl, a 20-inch (50 cm) Steiff bear made in 1904. That's a far cry from the turn of the century, when a 12-inch (30 cm) teddy bear cost 25 cents to \$1.

Nudists protest Florida park strictures on sunbathing

CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE, Florida (R) — Fifty years of clothing-optional sunbathing at this national park is being threatened by a campaign that nudists say smears them as perverts and prostitutes. The park, on Florida's Atlantic coast just north of the Kennedy Space Centre, has been a favourite of nudists and naturists since the end of World War II, said Frank Cervasio, president of the Central Florida Nudists Association. Round out in the court battle between the nudists and park rangers was won earlier this year by the park, and a appeals court is expected to rule soon on the nudists' appeal.



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter observes work at a polling station in Managua early Sunday before voting in this nation's second peace time general election took place. Mr. Carter is in Nicaragua to observe the elections (Reuters photo)

Myanmar is what the SLORC renamed Burma after it seized power in 1988.

Roadblocks manned by heavily-armed security police barring access to Ms. Suu Kyi's street remained in place Monday for the 10th consecutive day.

A party congress in late September, prevented Suu Kyi from holding regular weekend speeches to supporters for the fourth weekend in a row.

The government also arrested 573 democracy activists in late September but later released them in stages.

Jordan Times

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Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Facsimile: 696183

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Redrawing framework defeats the purpose

ON THE face of it, it might look difficult to understand what it was that France and French President Jacques Chirac did to incur such wrath from the Israeli government and body politic as to be accused of pursuing policies that border on anti-Semitism and supporting anti-Israeli terrorism. But given Israel's record of bombarding any European country or leader that challenges its intransigent approach to the conflict in the Middle East, the antagonistic attitude that the Israelis have adopted towards Mr. Chirac and his country becomes less inexplicable.

While in Damascus, the French president, who arrives here today, merely reiterated the principles upon which the Madrid peace process was launched. Is it possible that the terms he spelled out for advancing the peace effort instantly turned him into an enemy of the Jewish state, whose current government is the party that is continually trying to redraw the framework for Arab-Israeli negotiations?

The criteria that President Chirac offered for proceeding with the largely stalled talks are made of three principles. They are: the land-for-peace equation; the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, including the entitlement to establish an independent state; and the right of all peoples to peace. Does Israel in fact reject them?

Israel may remember that the first guideline was fully endorsed by a previous Likud-led government and it was upon it that the Madrid conference was held in 1991. Israel may also recall that the second principle, the right to self-determination, is not exactly a French invention. The charter of the U.N. and customary international law speak clearly of the right of all non-self-governing peoples to exercise self-determination, politically, economically, socially and culturally.

The first Article in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Israel ratified four years ago, states in no uncertain terms that "all peoples have the right to self-determination." Paragraph 3 of the same provision stipulates that state parties to ICCPR "including those having responsibility for the administration of non-self-governing and trust territories shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination." Does Israel need a reminder of this legal obligation by the French president? Is the Israeli team of negotiators with the Arab side cognizant of this lofty and legal commitment? Probably not. Which might explain why Israel took more than 20 years to become a state party to ICCPR in the first place.

The right to peace, on the other hand, stands a close second to the right of self-determination because without it there can be no respect for the right to life or the pursuit of prosperity and economic, social and cultural developments. That is why President Chirac saw fit to invoke this universal right as well in conjunction with the right to self-determination.

France has in fact already carved an important role for itself and the European Union (EU) by laying down these fundamental concepts for continuing the peace process. Even without a formal participation, France and Europe will continue to play this regardless of Israeli unjustifiable protestations.

There is nothing in the French position that reflects any deviation from the international law and legitimacy to which Israel said it was committed when it entered into peace talks with the Arabs and thereafter. Israel may continue to resist European involvement in making and building peace in the region. But neither France nor Europe will give in to attempts by Israel to resist the tides of history, culture and geography.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i warned the Palestinian negotiators against ceding anything to the Israelis and advised them to remain firm and cling to their position and demands for the Palestinian people's rights. Any weakness on the part of the Palestinian negotiators would open the door to compromise and relinquishing of rights, to the detriment of the Palestinians and their future, said Husni Ayyesh. The writer said that the Palestinians are facing a greedy and ferocious enemy that is bent on blackmailing them, but steadfastness based on faith in their legitimate rights can help them achieve their national goals. Citing the example of Syria, the writer said that due largely to its steadfast and firm stand, Damascus has won the respect of enemy and friend alike. Syria did well in holding tight to its demand for a complete Israeli withdrawal for a complete peace, and by so doing the Syrians have won Washington's respect; by ceding nothing to Israel, they won the backing of the Arab masses. He warned that the Israelis are now trying to blackmail the Palestinians and exercising all forms of pressure on them, hoping to weaken their will and so they give way to Israel's demands and accept humiliating agreements.

THERE IS no difference between a rental car in the streets of Amman and a car bomb in the streets of Algeria or other parts of the world, as both terrorise pedestrians and innocent civilians and bring a tragic end to their lives, said Fakhr Kassar, a writer for Al-Dustour. Teenagers who rent cars in Jordan have no regard to the life of pedestrians and drive madly, killing or injuring women and children, hitting other vehicles or causing damage to other public or private property, said the writer. The rental car offices are not to blame since it is their business to offer cars for rent, but it is rather the fault of the government and the licensing department, in particular, because they issue driving licences to teenagers who, more often than not, prove to be irresponsible citizens who pose a serious threat to the society through reckless driving, according to the writer. Rental cars are meant for tourists who need them for their tours and not for irresponsible youths who abuse them, stressed the writer. He demanded that the concerned authorities introduce strict regulations and apply rules that can deter reckless actions.

The View from Fourth Circle

October 1994 and 1996
— learning from an odd sort of peace

TWO YEARS ago this week, Jordan and Israel signed their bilateral peace treaty and embarked on a promising, yet uncharted, new era of peace and cooperation. Where have we reached on that road, and how much of the promise and hope of October 1994 have been fulfilled? The good news is that the peace accord between Jordan and Israel is working — the bad news is that it is not working very well.

The most significant aspect of our bilateral Jordan-Israel peace is not how fast it was negotiated or how easily both sides reached agreement on the sectoral agreements that were negotiated after October 1994. This is no surprise, for, viewed through the clear and dispassionate lens of historical hindsight, Jordan and Israel have shared few real disagreements or existential threats — other than their common entanglement with the Palestinian issue. The really significant dimension of our bilateral peace is how routine it has become, and how easily both sides have absorbed the novelty of dealing with one another as we deal with any other state.

The slow, quiet development of normal contacts and institutional relationships between Jordanians and Israelis is one of the great, untold stories of this peace process. It takes place in many sectors and at many levels, in commerce, health care, tourism and industry, and even in the embarrassing and rising phenomenon of illegal Jordanian labour in Israel. Hebrew-language tourism guides on Jordanian sites are sold throughout our country. Jordanians travel daily to Israel for advanced medical treatments. Investors from both sides are regularly sealing deals for new joint ventures. What was once logistically forbidden, politically treasonous and morally repulsive has become matter-of-fact to the point of inconsequence. But — not for all people.

For alongside this pattern of mutually satisfying cooperation we have a parallel world of political resentment, fears and refusal to normalise relations. My telephone bills still do not have the word "Israel" printed on them. Merchants smile while selling tourist trinkets to Israelis, but when the Israelis are no longer there the same merchants complain about the stingy and arrogant manner of the Israelis; we like their money, but we don't like them, is the unspoken verdict. Our intellectual and moral marketplace is flooded with tales about the wholesale, predatory meanness of Israeli tourists, more often simply referred to as al-yahood ("the Jews") — how they steal things from hotels, do not buy Jordanian food or water, attempt to emotionally expropriate our tourist and holy sites as theirs and theirs alone, and plan to turn the Jordanian tourism industry into a one-day add-on to foreign tourists' week-long stays in Israel. How much of this is true or false does not really matter because much of it is believed by many Jordanians anyway.

What is the meaning of this Jordanian double vision of Israelis, which simultaneously comprises cooperation and bitterness, warmth and revulsion, hope and fear? Both views are genuine, and widely held among Jordanians. Neither represents a freak, lunatic fringe. Which one reflects the majority view, and which is rising or falling among the population? Will our bilateral peace turn warmer and more mutually satisfying, or will it slowly stall and remain primarily as the second Arab monument — after the Egyptian-Israeli cold peace — to unrealistic expectations forged in an inhospitable and ultimately devastating environment of desperation, naiveté and compulsion?

My assessment is that the political majority in Jordan, predominantly centrist in nature, is committed to making



the peace accord work; but it is not a silent majority. It has spoken loud and clear, in a new and troublesome language that political analysts are still learning to decipher — the language of cold and partial peace. The Jordanian majority is saying clearly that it is prepared to live with a cold and partial peace, if this will make Israelis understand our sentiments and aspirations.

The Jordanian majority understands and accepts the government's argument that peace is good for Jordan in the long run; it is a wise majority. It also appreciates that the gains of peace will take time to materialise: it is a patient majority. This same majority is also saying that Jordan's peace with Israel cannot be neatly isolated from the wider Arab and Middle Eastern context into which the independent states of Israel and Jordan both were born earlier this century. Here's something very noteworthy: during the past year — that is, after the initial romanticism, voyeurism and star-gazing dimensions of our peace treaty with Israel wore off — the most dominant and powerful driving force of anti-normalisation sentiment in Jordan has been the majority's anger with Israel's treatment of other Arabs, most notably Palestinians and Lebanese. Our wise, patient, once-silent, now-vocal majority is very concerned about the pan-Arab dimensions of the peace accord and of Jordan's identity and well-being.

A combination of events during the last year — Israel's military, economic and ideological violence against the Arabs, the advent of the Netanyahu government's Wild West policies, and widespread Jordanian disappointment with the slow bilateral benefits of peace — has repositioned the Jordanian majority within its natural political place among the Arab parties that engage Zionism and the state of Israel in an epic, historical battle. Israel's status within the wider Middle Eastern context today makes this very clear: Egypt has been leading the anti-Israel diplomatic campaign around the world, warfare continues to define the Israeli-Lebanese border, there is astounding talk of preparations for war on the Syrian-Israeli border, expanding Jewish settlements in Palestine give colonial-

ism a new lease on life in the 20th century. Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that nearly collapsed over Hebron bode ill for the much more difficult final status issues, the government and mainstream political establishment in Jordan have strongly criticised Israeli government policies and many in Jordan have called for slower normalisation with Israel, and Qatar and others in the Arab World are reassessing the speed of their commercial contacts with Israel. I have not counted, but I would guess that more Arabs and Israelis have died in the three years since the Oslo and Jordan-Israel accords than died in the three years previous to them. If this is peace, it sure is an odd and violent sort of peace.

So what does this picture tell us? It tells us that the Zionist-Arab nationalist conflict that was conceived 100 years ago and that caught fire in Palestine in the mid-1930s remains valid and volatile, because the core clash between Jewish and Palestinian Arab identity and rights in Palestine remains unresolved. The only truly new dimension of this century-long war is that the Zionist-Arab battle no longer need be existential, that both Israeli and Arab states, including a Palestinian state, can live together in peace and respect, if both sides enjoy equal rights.

This is the real but as yet unrealised significance of the Jordanian and Egyptian peace treaties with Israel. The significance of the very mixed feelings towards Israel in Jordan — two years after our peace with Israel was widely trumpeted as 'Warmer Than You've Ever Seen' — is that Arabs everywhere place a high premium on a sense of justice and mutual respect as the core elements of genuine conflict-resolution and future cooperation. Most Jordanians, like most Arabs, do not see a commitment to justice and mutual respect when they look at Israel today. They want to, but they do not see it. And so, two years on, the Jordanian majority presses on for peace and justice; it waits patiently, speaks clearly, and simultaneously embraces and curses the Israeli visitors in our midst. You can learn a lot in two years.

Demining the world — only a total ban will do

By Gwynne Dyer

"THE MOVEMENT of countries on this issue is like a landslide," said Jody Williams, coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines. "It's breathtaking."

In the past few months, 40 countries have declared their support for a total ban on anti-personnel mines — and 63 countries, including all the major military powers except China, have shown up in Ottawa for a conference (October 3-5) to plan a global ban on these cheap and very nasty weapons.

It is one of the fastest turnabouts in diplomatic history, for only last May an elaborate United Nations conference to curb the use of land mines ended in almost complete failure. The "First Review Conference on Certain Conventional Weapons Which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious and Discriminate" (no, I didn't make it up) laboured mightily in Vienna for months — and gave birth to the scrawniest mouse imaginable.

The negotiators agreed that everything would remain as it is for another nine years, except that all mines must contain at least eight grammes of metal to make them detectable. After the year 2005, a new rule would permit countries to possess and deploy only "smart anti-personnel mines that automatically self-destruct or disarm within 30 days, with 90 per cent certainty."

"The impact which land mines are having, both on the civilian population and on the economy as a whole in affected countries, is so

appalling, so devastating, that a total ban on all anti-personnel mines is the only solution," said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, expressing his "deep disappointment" with the result. Most of the countries at the Vienna conference agreed — but under U.N. rules, only unanimously agreed changes get through. The final document was certainly an inadequate response to a global problem that kills or maims around 500 people a week. Anti-personnel mines are ultra-cheap (as little as \$3 each), they are designed to cause horrible wounds that will over-stress the medical resources available — and they do not notice when the war is finished. They are lurking just beneath the soil in dozens of countries that have been visited by war in the past few decades, and everywhere they go on killing long after the conflict has ended. At least a third of the people they kill and injure are women and children. Huge tracts of agricultural land remain abandoned for decades because of the danger and the high cost (up to \$1,000 per mine) of clearing them.

Making a new rule that 90 per cent of mines laid after 2005 have to deactivate themselves after a month is hardly a useful way to address this ongoing calamity. As the International Committee of the Red Cross observed, the conference's "woefully inadequate decisions will encourage the production, transfer and use of a new generation of (smart) mines..." and "are unlikely to significantly reduce the level of civilian land mine casualties."

But sometimes things have to get worse before they get better. A few countries, frustrated by the way that the U.N.'s consensus rule let a small number of mine-exporting countries thwart the will of the majority at Vienna, decided to convene another conference outside the U.N. system. Canada, which has lost 34 soldiers killed or maimed by mines on U.N. peacekeeping operations in the past five years, agreed to host it. And then the avalanche started.

At first, only about a dozen countries were expected at the Ottawa meeting, but suddenly the issue took off. Six NATO countries, including Germany, have now destroyed their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines or set deadlines for doing so. A group of 15 high-ranking former U.S. officers, including ex-Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General David Jones, and Gulf war commander General Norman Schwarzkopf, have called a total ban "not only humane, but also militarily responsible."

And besides the 40 countries openly committed to a ban, a further two dozen nations (including Russia) showed up at the Ottawa conference as observers. Many are clearly ready to board this ship if it ever leaves port. But will it?

The Canadian government is cautious. "The purpose is to get as many states as possible to agree on the need to ban anti-personnel mines," said Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman John Bell, "and in the long-term, to achieve an agreement on early negotiations on a global ban."

In other words, this is a

meeting to prepare the ground for an eventual agreement on holding a conference where the issue is actually negotiated. A very slow-motion avalanche, you might say — but a significant one, nevertheless. Nothing ever gets done much faster than this in multilateral negotiations, and the shift in international opinion in the past six months has been remarkable.

If the tide continues to rise, it will carry along many countries that are still reluctant, for the domestic lobby in favour of continued production and sale of anti-personnel mines is not particularly rich or influential anywhere. If governments think that opposing a ban will do them significant damage in world public opinion, they will cut their losses and change sides quite fast.

The last time I got caught in a minefield and had to walk out, in Lebanon in 1982, I happened to be on camera. I thought I had stayed fairly cool about it, but looking at the film afterwards you could see how high my feet went with each step, and how reluctantly they came down again.

I find it hard to imagine what it would be like to walk through a minefield every day on the way to work — but that is what millions of people on this planet have to do every day. And every day another 80 or 90 of them lose their limbs, their genitals, their sight, or their lives. It really is high time to stop making these "weapons."

A total ban is possible, and it could come in only a year or so if the present momentum is maintained. The Ottawa conference is a good start.

LETTERS

Enabling the disabled needs effort

To the Editor:

I SEIZE the opportunity of Mr. Marwan Attala's letter: "All are equal under the law" (Oct. 19, 1996), regarding our "disabled fellow citizens", to write in a linked, yet different, perspective.

Mr. Attala's concern, together with that of the Ministry of Social Development, merits serious consideration and recognition.

Integrating the disabled in our society naturally demands much from many: private and public sectors and the legislation.

To do so, it is needed to have one's efforts on concepts like respect, implementation, evaluation of existing facts and facilities, new measures and standards.

A pertinent example of minor adjustments is the presence of certain traffic facilities in the Amman Municipal area, with directional signs proudly designating special access areas for the disabled.

Regrettably, efforts at providing these facilities are not compatible with the required standards. Some access areas are remarkably uneven, open on one side yet blocked on the other; in brief, practically inaccessible. Their execution simply defeats their purpose.

On the other hand, it would be worth clarifying the full concept and purpose of such facilities to our traffic police who repeatedly use these special areas as parking lots for their motorcycles or patrol cars.

The sight of these frequently unattended police vehicles parked for long hours in these special areas is an offence to all. Among the many duties, the traffic police is to set perfect examples to others. After all, they are the models for and ideals to our children and ourselves. The integration of the disabled in our society is a serious necessity and a duty to be shouldered by each and every one of us.

Without respect, serious action and earnest involvement by all, such an integration can never be achieved.

Nayla Kassab
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Even in Japan, today's cleanliness fads seem surprising

By Braven Smillie
The Associated Press

Tokyo — Hisako Furuta occasionally wears a gauze mask in public to avoid, as she puts it, "inconveniencing others."

The 20-year-old receptionist is not timid about her looks. Like many Japanese, she just wants to make sure she does not sneeze anywhere near her fellow workers and subway commuters.

"It looks rude to carelessly spread germs around," she said.

But even people accustomed to Japan's age-old emphasis on cleanliness are surprised by the fads it is generating now.

Ever since a deadly food poisoning epidemic broke out across Japan in June, the demand for products such as sanitary saxophones and antiseptic bicycle grips has skyrocketed.

"This latest wave of products is really surprising," said Kyoko Yashiro, a well-known sociologist at Reitaku University.

For example, "laundering money" is no longer only a vice that banks dread — it's a come-on they use to win over customers.

Sanwa Bank's newest automatic teller machines not only count and press the bills they dispense, they also sanitize them to ensure that nothing more than funds will be transferred to their hyper-hygienic clientele.

"It may not be crucial to public health, but our customers are definitely more comfortable using clean ATMs," said Sanwa spokesman Hidehito Mori.

Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank is taking the concept even further at its "total anti-germ branch" in eastern Tokyo.

Customers line up in front of automated teller machines with surfaces made of state-of-the-art plastics indelibly saturated with chemicals that resist bacteria and fungus.

No other bank has gone that far, but most other major ones are now laminating their teller machine cards with the antibacterial plastic.

Mitsubishi spokesman Kazutaka Umeaki said such banking is especially "popular with young female customers, many of whom say they do not want to touch things handled by middle-aged men."

The obsession with cleanliness really took off during an epidemic of the O157 strain of the E. Coli bacterium, which killed 11 people and sickened 10,000 in June and July.

Despite an exhaustive government study, no one knows what food the bacteria was in when it first struck an elementary school cafeteria in central Japan, then spread nationwide.

The government quickly toughened its sanitary standards and inspections of everything from sushi shops and public school cafeterias to swimming pools and lavatories.

During the epidemic, experts warned about dangerous bacteria in public bathrooms. That's when the travel washlet, a refillable portable bidet the size of a paperback novel, emerged.

The bathroom hardware maker Toto Ltd. says it has sold 130,000 of the battery-powered bidets in the last year, four times what it had expected to. The items sell for \$180 apiece.

Other big sellers this summer were pencils, pens, stationery, bicycle grips, musical instruments, and Karaoke microphones — all made of antiseptic plastic.

Japan has long valued cleanliness.

Most shrines of the country's indigenous religion, Shinto, require a ritual washing of the hands and mouth before anyone can enter them. And no one ever enters a home without first taking their shoes off to avoid dirtying the floors.

But the latest trends may be going a bit too far, says Ms. Yashiro, the sociologist.

"Young people today think they can banish germs from their lives with a few gimmicks," she said. "But after you use your antiseptic ATM, you still walk out the door into a world of germs."

Chirac urges Israel to accept Palestinian state, leave Golan

(Continued from page 1)

for under U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

Mr. Chirac went on to repeat his demands for a greater European role in the peace process despite an explicit rejection of the idea by Mr. Netanyahu on Sunday.

"As a friend to all sides, France can and must play its full part in the region," he said. "The same is true for Europe ... it must increasingly contribute to the peace process."

In his speech, the French president dropped, however, a call for Europe to be made a "co-sponsor" of the peace process which had been included in an advance copy of the address distributed to reporters.

Mr. Chirac accompanied his appeals with a warning that a continuation of the deadlock which has gripped the peace process since Mr. Netanyahu came to power in June will lead to conflict.

"If a fair, just and lasting peace is not assured for all the peoples of the Middle East, let us be under no illusion, violence and terrorism will return," he said.

"The absence of movement exacerbates frustrations and bitterness, sooner or later they explode," he said.

Mr. Chirac also called on Mr. Netanyahu to negotiate the future of Jerusalem as required by the Oslo peace accords.

Mr. Chirac was due to hold talks Tuesday with Mr. Netanyahu before visiting the Israeli parliament.

where several leading government deputies have said they would boycott the French leader.

He is scheduled to meet Yasser Arafat on Wednesday in the West Bank town of Ramallah, where he will become the first foreign leader to address the elected Palestinian legislative council.

Mr. Chirac is due to travel on late Wednesday to Jordan and also visit Lebanon and Egypt.

Mr. Chirac sent a message to the top Palestinian official in Arab Jerusalem pledging French support in resisting Israeli attempts to change the status of Jerusalem prior to negotiations on a permanent peace settlement.

"The solution to the Jerusalem issue cannot be strictly religious or national," Mr. Chirac said in the message sent to Faisal Hussein to coincide with the French leader's arrival in Israel.

"Any notion of sovereignty must be arranged in the framework of a signed compromise as foreseen in the Oslo accords," Mr. Chirac said in the letter.

"Pending agreement on the final status (of the Palestinian areas), France refuses any fait accompli, any change in the status quo" in Jerusalem, he said.

Mr. Chirac sent his message to Mr. Hussein via a junior health minister, Herve Gaymard, who visited the unofficial Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Jerusalem, the Orient House, in place of French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette.

'Peace is hard work, but the joys and rewards are immeasurable'

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor Sunday became the first Arab recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Award which was launched in 1987 to "honour individuals who have dedicated their lives to humanitarian issues, service to society and international peace."

Following are excerpts of Queen Noor's speech at the award ceremony in New York:

It is a privilege to be here today at the prestigious and dynamic Val-Kill Centre in the company of such distinguished honourees gathered to receive tribute not so much as individuals as on behalf of the cause that we all so fervently support...

Peace is not something that can be achieved simply by the stroke of a pen. It is more like a new-born child, whose birth is celebrated, but who must then be carefully nurtured to grow and develop. That careful nurturing can be the hardest work of all.

Peace is work... peace can be harder work than war. War, once people are caught in its grip, can perpetuate itself. To pursue peace in the face of enmity



and hatred is the work of building, rather than tearing down — of building trust, bridges between cultures, and shared commitment to a common future...

The other honourees here today know much about the work of peace at the place where it must start — at the grassroots level. A world in which peace is valued can-

not be imposed from above. It must be built from the ground up, brick by brick, or even blade of grass by blade of grass...

For us in Jordan, peace has been an elusive but precious goal for over half a century. King Hussein's dreams of peace have been a driving force for him and those around him since he assumed the throne as a young man still in his late teens. I shared his dreams and, since my marriage, I have worked to complement his efforts to foster the kind of environment that will nurture peace. I have worked where I believe work should start, at the grassroots, abroad and at home.

Some of those efforts have been international and multi-cultural in focus, to defeat persistent stereotypes and misconceptions about Arab and Islamic society and culture, to provide opportunities for people to learn about each other — to open their minds, and to promote the mutual tolerance and understanding that makes peace possible...

Our other efforts are more local — through economic,

educational and social projects in Jordan designed to give people an investment in peace. Although people at war often claim they are fighting to preserve something, the most pernicious wars persist where people have nothing left to lose. To build peace, people must have not something worth fighting for, but something to make it worth ending the fighting...

Our programmes focus especially on women, because the empowerment of women is the fastest and most effective route to development. Women are the members of our society most naturally committed to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation, in the hope of providing their children with a secure future.

We believe that the social and economic empowerment of women is the fastest and most effective route to development. Women are the members of our society most naturally committed to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation, in the hope of providing their children with a secure future.

As my husband said in his address to the joint session of the United States Congress in July 1994, "It should never be forgotten

that peace resides ultimately not in the hands of governments, but in the hands of the people. For unless peace can be made real to the men, women and children of the Middle East, the best efforts of negotiators will come to naught."

This is the message we want to send to those in our region, particularly in Israel, who yearn for peace. We must hold fast to hope, and continue our quest in spite of discouraging setbacks. We must mobilise the forces for peace in Israel, in the Arab World, in the United States and throughout the world to influence decision makers to choose genuine security over territorial ambition, humanity over inhumanity, hope over despair, development over stagnation and peaceful reconciliation over wasteful confrontation.

Peace is hard work, but in spite of that hard work, or perhaps more because of it, nothing is more valuable. Just as in raising that new-born child, in spite of the worries and the frustrations and the sacrifices, we will find the joys and rewards are immeasurable.

No temporary laws ahead

(Continued from page 1)

issue before moving ahead.

One official told the Jordan Times:

"There is a pressing need for several new laws and amendments to existing ones if Jordan is to press ahead in its quest to liberalise the economy and attract investment, both local and foreign."

"Those laws and amendments simply cannot wait until Parliament debates and approves them after amendments if necessary," added the official. "The government is in touch with Parliament and consultations are continuing with a view to reaching agreement with the legislature to enact those laws as temporary laws."

If nothing else, said the official, "the government would like to have the draft law on customs in place before the Cairo summit."

The government's anxiety to secure the legislature's agreement to enacting the

proposed temporary law is in line with its promise and commitment to closely cooperate with the elected representatives of the people.

At the same time, the executive authority also wants to avoid further friction with Parliament and given any undue reason to fuel opposition depedes' contentions that the legislature is being left out of key decisions.

The new laws on companies and customs incorporate major changes in the existing systems of registration of companies and incentives and facilities offered to investment and make the Kingdom's legislation more compatible with the direct and indirect requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Despite what many describe as the coldness of the Cairo summit resulting from the stagnation in the peace process, the private sector is hoping to make some progress in efforts for

joint ventures with foreign and Arab partners at the conference.

Officials confirmed that several other draft laws and amendments were ready after approval by the Council of Ministers. In addition the draft bills on companies and customs, these include a law on the stock exchange and securities and another on "competition" (anti-trust or anti-monopoly).

According to independent experts, the draft laws, as and when enacted, mean significantly positive changes to the investment climate in Jordan.

"But one has to bear in mind that many countries are enacting similar laws with an eye on foreign capital," noted an expert. "As such Jordan has to keep one step ahead by moving fast and also incorporating more incentives to capital than others. That is where Jordan's success lies."

Tareq Momani contributed to this report

Jordanian Parliament welcomes French president

(Continued from page 1)

security in the Middle East. A similar welcome statement was issued Monday by the Popular Unionist Yaqaza and Ansar political parties which said France adopts a just policy which would promote peace and justice.

The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday issued a statement welcoming the French president and his plans to deliver an address to Parliament during his visit.

The House praised France's stance vis-a-vis the Arab and regional issues and expressed hope that France will stimulate European Union countries' effective action to help reestablish peace.

The French ambassador

said France highly values His Majesty King Hussein's participation in serious efforts for peace and his participation in the Washington summit meeting early this month.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that President Chirac's visit which starts Wednesday, will boost efforts to restore peace.

France was keen on protecting the gains... far achieved in the peace process and on enabling the region to enjoy a comprehensive peace, Mr. Bajole said. Mr. Chirac's visit to the region as a whole reflects the desire on the part of Paris and the European nations to contribute to peace based on justice, he said.

Jordan and France, the

ambassador said, are linked by cultural, military and economic agreements noting that France has during 1996 provided aid to Jordan estimated at \$80 million and was planning further aid and investments to promote development schemes.

Jerusalem. Mr. Bajole said, should remain open to the followers of the three monotheistic religions "adding that France has historic responsibilities towards Jerusalem as provided for in international agreements stressing that Paris will continue to shoulder these responsibilities. He said that Europe does not seek to substitute the U.S. or to play its role in the region but rather to support that role.

Ross returns to U.S. without deal

(Continued from page 1)

and Palestinian negotiators were due to pursue talks later in the day, after the two sides postponed indefinitely full-scale talks that were to have resumed Monday in the Israeli and Egyptian Red Sea resorts of Eilat and Taba, officials said.

Mr. Ross has been in the thick of the tough negotiations since they were launched on Oct. 6, brokered by the United States in a bid to rescue the peace process in the wake of an outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian violence last month which left more than 80 dead.

It has been the most direct U.S. intervention in the two sides' negotiations ever, with Mr. Ross crisscrossing Israel and the Palestinian territories at an exhausting pace and engaging in sometimes stormy talks lasting deep into the night.

But the two sides have been unable to seal an agreement on Israel's withdrawal from Hebron, due to have occurred seven months ago, and other issues left unimplemented from the 1995 Oslo interim self-rule accords.

"We had hoped we would finalize on some things. But that didn't materialise," Mr. Ross acknowledged.

"You always hope to reach agreements as soon as possible," he said. But in the wake of September's violence, "what was most important was to get (the two sides) launched in a serious engagement in a positive atmosphere."

"It is fair to say that

progress has been made. more in security than in civil affairs" concerning the Hebron pullout, he said.

Mr. Ross said both sides had decided not to return to Taba and Eilat where they met last week because they "felt that it is just as important to stay for intensive negotiations" in smaller working groups which met on Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Ross has previously urged the two sides to stick to the smaller working groups, which he feels more likely than full-fledged delegations to make headway on closing the gaps between the two sides.

The Israeli army said the committee on security aspects of the Hebron pullout plan would meet "until those issues are resolved."

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour told journalists that committee meetings late Sunday night "did not produce any progress. Israel continues to reopen the signed agreements and we completely refuse that."

An Israeli official blamed Mr. Arafat for failing to wrap up the agreement, saying he was apparently waiting until after the U.S. election next month because he believed President Bill Clinton would take a more active role.

"It's obvious that things are not moving," said David Bar-Illan, media adviser to Mr. Netanyahu. "Ninety per cent of the issues have been resolved and the remaining 10 per cent are not crucial and could be wrapped up in a matter of hours."

Israel maintained Palestinians were trying to add other issues to the talks. These included prisoner releases and the opening of a Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip.

Saeed Erekat, the Palestinian chief negotiator, said: "Major gaps are still there. There is no progress at all."

Mr. Erekat was indirectly critical of the U.S. envoy for being over-optimistic.

"Mr. Ross has been talking about progress since the first day he got here. Maybe in his way Mr. Ross sees progress, but in our way we do not see any progress," Mr. Erekat told the Associated Press.

Speaking on Israeli Radio in Arabic, Mr. Arafat denied allegations that he was trying to stall an agreement on Hebron until after the U.S. elections.

"This is not true at all," Mr. Arafat said. "You know I have no upper hand in the United States. You have the big influence there, before elections and after elections. This claim is unacceptable."

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said the Palestinian leader would visit President Hafez Assad in Syria before finishing an agreement on Hebron, which had been expected to be wrapped up last week.

Mr. Arafat has reportedly also sought to broaden European involvement in the negotiations. French President Jacques Chirac, who began a two-day visit to Israel, was expected to propose a European envoy be appointed to help Israeli-Palestinian talks get back on track.

Afghan talks end without agreement on ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Babar ended without finalising a ceasefire agreement.

Mr. Muttaqi said Gen. Dostum was representing Mr. Masood in ongoing peace negotiations in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar, but said he did not know whether Gen. Dostum was fighting the Taliban alongside Mr. Masood on the battlefield.

"It seems that Dostum is representing Masood (in negotiations). If the ceasefire is agreed upon with Dostum, it is therefore applicable to all the fronts," he said.

But the Taliban minister was careful to avoid directly accusing Gen. Dostum of militarily backing Mr. Masood's forces in their bid to recapture the battered Afghan capital.

"I don't have information whether Dostum has backed Mr. Masood in these operations because I was not in the area. We are, however, determined to defend ourselves against any fighting," he said.

The Taliban spokesman denied reports that fighting against Mr. Masood's advancing forces had got within 20 kilometres of Kabul, saying the frontline

was near the village of Kalakan, 30 kilometres from the capital.

Correspondents, however, saw clear front lines in the town of Hussain Kot, just 20 kilometres from Kabul, where intensive heavy weapons exchanges were taking place.

Mr. Muttaqi confirmed for the first time that Bagram air base, which the Taliban had held since Kabul fell to them on September 27, had been recaptured by Mr. Masood troops.

"Our forces now control the high ground five kilometres south of the air base," he said.

had been placed in the Seiran-Band border camp and 2,000 in a camp at Bashmagh, taking the total number of Kurds in the two camps to 52,000.

Wolde Ammar, spokesman for the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Baghdad, said families had fled the town of Runya, which the KDP captured Saturday. Qala Diza and even Sulaymaniyeh.

"People are panicking," he said without giving number of refugees.

There is still fighting in those areas," said one U.N. official.

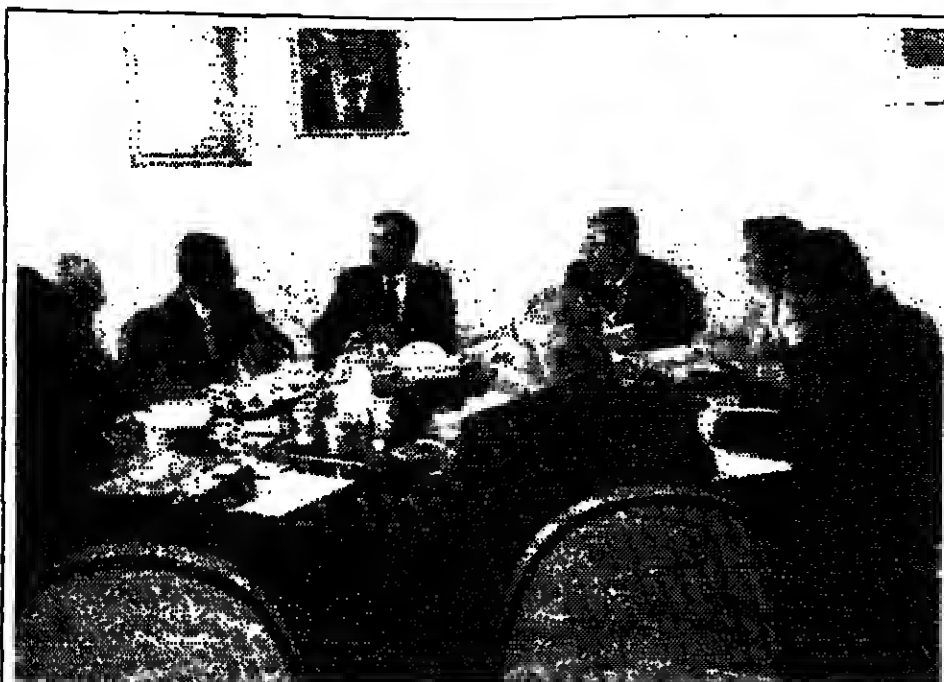
The KDP said Sunday that Sulaymaniyeh, which it captured a first time on Sept. 9, would fall within 48 hours.

In Tehran, Abbas-Ali Haj-Ali, director of the refugee department for Iran's Kurdistan province, told the official IRNA news agency that some 7,000 Kurdish refugees crossed into Iran on Sunday.

He said 5,000 refugees and other vehicles. Shells fired by PUK forces defending the dam exploded 100 metres behind them.

Sulaymaniyeh is the last major city in northern Iraq held by the PUK.

The KDP claims to have captured both Qala-Diza and Dukan but the PUK has denied this and U.N. officials said it appeared the KDP had not gained control of the towns.



Premier chairs JIC board meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday chaired a board meeting at the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) to review the developments in the process of privatising public institutions.

The prime minister reaffirmed government plans to divest part of its equity in the Jordan Cement Factories Company and discussed plans for exploiting Dead Sea minerals. Mr. Kabariti emphasised the importance of cooperation between the JIC and the Social Security Corporation

(SSC) in constructing buildings to be rented by government departments. JIC Director Mohammad Bataineb confirmed that the corporation was conducting a feasibility study on inviting foreign investments to promote the Ma'in Health Spa.

Present at the meeting were also the ministers of planning, finance, industry and trade in addition to the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan along with the directors of the Budget Department, and the director of the Industrial Development Bank.

Lack of jobs main factor in emigration, conference finds

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain (AFP) — Chronic and massive unemployment and under-employment on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean will constitute a "reservoir of emigration" for years to come, a Council of Europe Conference has found.

The view was shared by almost all the experts present at the conference on population, migration and development in the Mediterranean region.

Jobs were "a crucial" factor around the Mediterranean: Arab countries and Turkey had entered a transition phase with fewer births and increased life expectancy. For them, the problem is no longer population growth but what to do with young people who have reached working age.

South of the Mediterranean, "economic growth is not enough to satisfy population growth," said French economist Georges Corm. He said that because

of lack of investments and "historical handicaps" the region had "missed" its technological evolution.

Arab countries and Turkey today have 10 million registered unemployed, not including those in part-time work or informal jobs, said Nader Fergany, director of the Cairo Research and Training Centre.

He said there was "a high accumulation of human capital" deprived of any protection against unemployment and which resulted in a "waste of human potential."

"This crisis, is going to deepen and will create a higher potential for emigration," he said.

He said those out of work were "young people, graduates, a group very well disposed to emigrate."

In North Africa, the workforce is expected to swell by 750,000 people a year: 350,000 in Algeria, 300,000 in Morocco, 100,000 in Tunisia up to

2000, said Mohammad Khachani, a researcher in Rabat.

Abdul Latif Fadloulah of Rabat University said the influx of unemployed graduates in the cities, coincided with a fall in earnings from tourism and official efforts to stamp out contraband-linked jobs. All this served to "swell the emigration reservoir."

For decades, developing countries encouraged their workers to emigrate to relieve social pressures and provide a source of foreign exchange. But researchers said the situation had reached the point where it was no longer possible to "hide the need for fundamental change" and social reforms.

A report published during the conference called for the creation of "one million jobs a year" in North Africa in order to partially absorb the surplus workers.

Expert outlines pressing needs for Jordanian banking sector

By P.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is no real problem of liquidity in the Jordanian banking sector, but there is a pressing need to upgrade the quality of services and system of transactions as well as to adopt new instruments that are prevalent in the international capital markets, a senior banking expert said Monday.

Adib Haddad, head of the Institute of Banking Studies, was speaking on the fringes of a three-day seminar on capital markets and the experience of Europe and the U.S. with a view to examining how the Jordanian banking system could benefit from that experience.

"I don't think there is any real liquidity problem in the Jordanian banking sector," said Dr. Haddad. "Some of the smaller banks may not be able to meet all the requirements of their clients, but by and large, all the big banks have enough liquidity to meet the market's needs," he told the Jordan Times.

"But Jordanian banks are lagging far behind in adopting new technologies and new banking instruments that are dominant in the international markets," he said.

Unless Jordanian banks adapt themselves to the changing environment in international banking, they will be left behind, unable to cope with the challenges of the world economic order, he said.

Monday's session of the seminar, organised by the Institute of Banking Studies and Citibank Jordan, focused on the European and American banking systems and new technologies and banking instruments adopted by them, he said.

"Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Ziad Fariz opened the seminar Sunday with a call for efficient and organised banking institutions that will prevent the flight of Arab capital from Arab markets."

Arab World getting a marginal share
Subair Al Ali, general manager of Citibank Jordan, told the meeting that the key to attracting capital was "an environment conducive to investment and characterised by overall political stability."

She said the demand for capital was coming not only from emerging markets but

also from industrialised countries, where "international issuance of equity capital...could exceed \$65 billion this year."

Citing figures released by the Institute of International Banking, Ms. Ali pointed out that the net flow of private capital to emerging markets was estimated to be around \$225 billion in 1996 compared with \$204 billion in 1995. Direct investment will account for half the estimate and equity investment for 32 per cent. Multinational lending institutions will account for the rest.

But the Arab World is expected to receive only less than five per cent of the international capital flow, with Latin America, Asia

and Eastern Europe accounting for the rest, she pointed out.

"Economic reforms including globalisation, deregulation, privatisation, currency convertibility and liberalisation involving dismantling of barriers, and freeing up of prices have created an environment conducive to investment," said the banker. Another contributing factor is the "rapid economic growth of many of the developing countries."

Ms. Ali particularly noted the active roles played by the governments and banks of Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia in tapping the international market through bonds and global depository deposits. Simultaneously

they have also developed a "domestic capital market where investment opportunities in local currency have allowed the government and companies to finance their capital needs and have attracted foreign investors..." she said.

Citibank, one of the largest banking institutions with a global presence, "have an entrenched position" in both the developed world and the developing world and "will continue to be ideally positioned to bridge the issuers and borrowers of the emerging world with the investors of the industrial world," she said.

The seminar concludes today (Tuesday).

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLF	FRF
US Dollar	1.5355	0.6281	1.2637	112.73	1.3466	1532.42	1.7220	5.1900	
DE Mark	0.6513		0.4088	0.6234	73.36	0.8767	99.747	1.1214	3.3791
GB Sterling	1.5920	0.442		2.0123	179.10	2.1438	2438.23	2.7398	8.2578
CH Franc	0.7913	1.2145	0.4967		69.16	1.0852	1210.92	138.21	4.1055
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3816	0.5569	1.1208		1.1943	13.59	152.73	4.6030
CA Dollar	0.7426	1.1299	0.4675	0.9267	1.19		1125.28	1.2660	3.8263
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0013	0.4095	0.0824	1361.47	0.8792		11.23	3.3848
NL Guilder	0.5807	89.12	0.3644	73.36	55.40	0.7215	1889.39		3.0123
FR Franc	0.1927	0.2957	0.1209	24.3375	21.69	0.2593	33.16	33.1600	

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	25.90	26.05
WTI	25.70	25.75
Bony	25.90	26.05
Dubai	22.17	21.85
UL Gas	232.00	231.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4095	0.16749	0.33709	30.0634
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41617	0.17102	0.3442	30.6974
KW Dinar	3.3350	5.12295	2.09468	4.21585	376.081
BH Dinar	0.3769	0.47498	1.66667	3.35458	299.133
CY Pound	2.1371	3.2818	1.3421	2.7009	240.938

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz/s)	381.6	382.1
Silver (oz/s)	2.53	2.55
Platinum (oz/s)	363.9	364.9
AT (3 Months)	1351	1352
CU (3 Months)	1955	1960
Zinc (3 Months)	1024	1025
Lead (3 Months)	725	728
NI (3 Months)	7065	7070

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Period	1 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6 - 9 Months	9 - 12 Months	1 - 5 Years
USD	5.28	5.50	5.59	5.58	5.84
GBP	5.62	5.77	5.67	5.59	5.17
JPY	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.40	0.49
DEM	2.98	2.98	2.98	2.94	3.10
FRF	3.32	3.37	3.43	3.48	3.50
CHF	1.31	1.56	1.43	1.50	1.56
ITL	8.25	7.95	7.74	7.50	7.39

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lb)	117.42	Spot
Cocoa (c/lb)	1466	Spot
Sugar (c/lb)	325.5	Spot
Wheat (c/lb)	160	Spot
Soy (c/lb)	21.62	Spot
1st (c/lb)	115	Spot
Barley (c/lb)	249	Spot
Rice (c/lb)	465	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1263	1.1319
DE Mark	0.4585	0.4608
CH Franc	0.8557	0.8585
FR Franc	0.1357	0.1364
JP Yen	0.6257	0.6298
NL Guilder	0.4087	0.4107
IT Lira	0.4683	0.4626

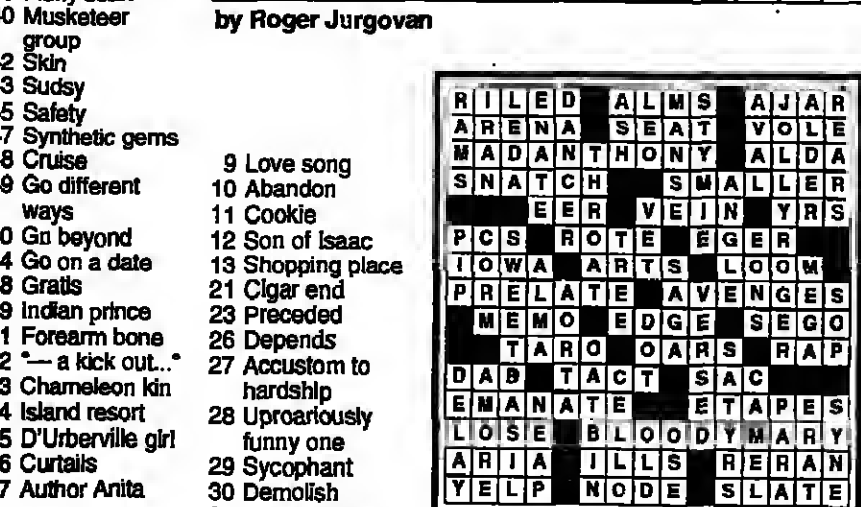
* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Word of woe
- 5 Unconscious states
- 10 Sonnet, e.g.
- 14 Wile
- 15 Papal vestment
- 16 — Minor
- 17 Most recent
- 18 Stratum
- 19 Shakespearean king
- 20 Exceed in sales volume
- 22 Betray
- 24 Redding or birdsong
- 25 Classical start
- 26 Good name
- 29 Villages
- 34 Maternally related
- 35 Prod
- 36 Lanky
- 37 Calendar abbr.
- 38 Fad
- 39 Fluffy scarf
- 40 Musketeer group
- 42 Skin
- 43 Sudsy
- 45 Safety
- 47 Synthetic gems
- 48 Cruise
- 49 Go different ways
- 50 Go beyond
- 54 Go on a date
- 58 Grails
- 59 Indian prince
- 61 Forearm bone
- 62 — a kick out..
- 63 Chameleon kin
- 64 Island resort
- 65 D'Urville girl
- 66 Curtains
- 67 Author Anita

by Roger Jurgovan



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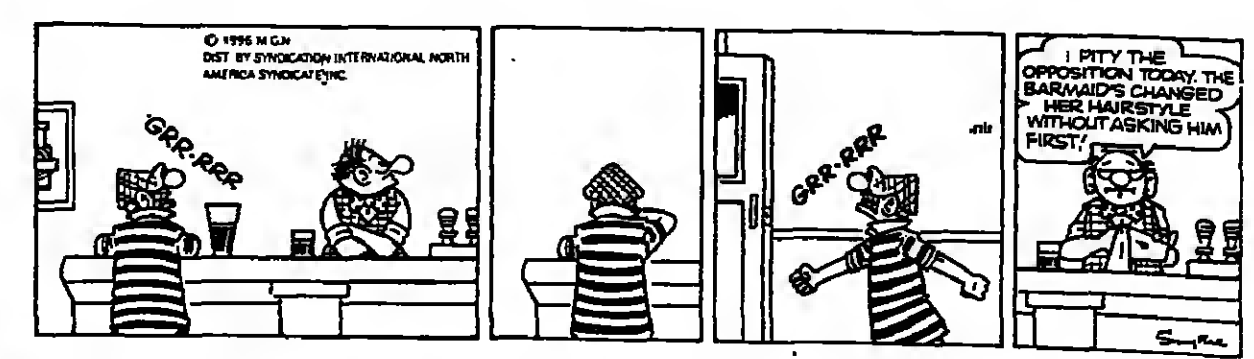
DOWN

- 1 Woody's boy
- 2 Lanai blast
- 3 Adj.
- 4 Sallies forth
- 5 Shepherd dog
- 6 Certain
- 7 Merry month
- 8 Pub suds
- 9 Love song
- 10 Abandon
- 11 Cookie
- 12 Son of Isaac
- 13 Shopping place
- 21 Cigar end
- 23 Preceded
- 26 Depends
- 27 Accustom to hardship
- 28 Upbraughtly funny one
- 29 Sycophant
- 30 Demolish
- 31 Conspiratorial group
- 32 Wed secretly
- 33 Murders
- 35 Pluck
- 38 Illusions
- 41 Beginnings
- 43 Tender
- 44 Attract a larger audience
- 46 Molder
- 47 Uses a tub
- 49 Sacred song
- 50 "What —?"
- 51 Yen
- 52 Driving aids
- 53 Gasp
- 55 Potpourri
- 56 Take apart
- 57 N.M. resort
- 60 GI —

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You want to get into new activities today, however it is better to study them further before plunging into anything which can be detrimental. Later this evening can be great if you stay home with your loved ones and relax.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Handle unfinished business wisely so that you will gain recognition and respect from those in charge. Don't commit yourself to anything new at this time which you don't understand or there could be difficulty.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A stressful situation may arise with a fellow associate which could cause difficulty, so keep poised and keep calm. Show more objectivity later this evening for you will need additional information in order to make correct decisions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Give your full attention to career activities and get good results for your efforts. Use a more tactful approach with fellow associates so that you do not disturb any positive aspects which have developed.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you are more patient today you can express your talents far better and with greater success. Try not to lose your temper with anyone or you could disrupt any positive attitude which has been building for some time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you study a problematical affair at home today you should know how to solve it quite efficiently. You can entertain tonight and have close friends into your home and have a pleasant evening with them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study communications well today and use the information provided to complete any career activities which have been left unfinished. Be sure to use tact and get right to the point for the best result at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take care you do not make any unwise move today where a financial or property matter is concerned. Later this evening can be quite successful if you consult with a knowledgeable person and use any suggestions given.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be with persons who you enjoy today and will not get on your nerves, so that you can make best effort of your abilities. You may need more rest, so retire early this evening for you could be busy in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Come to a better understanding with fellow associates today by being patient and not jumping to any incorrect conclusions. This attitude alleviates concern for any misunderstanding which could develop in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make sure to keep any promises you have made to others, so that your reputation in left spotless. Social life will be boring at this time so think and act constructively otherwise you could be in great difficulty.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) It's important to handle community and civic affairs today, so that there aren't any concerns by bigwigs or those in authority. Take no risks where credit is concerned later this evening as you have set aside funds for another day.

Birthstone of October:
Opal — Tourmaline.

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Supersonic car to arrive in Jordan Oct. 28

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The jet-powered car designed to be the first land-based vehicle to travel faster than sound is due to arrive in Jordan Oct. 28.

It will be in Al Jafr desert that Thrust SSC, the supersonic car which will be driven by British Air Force officer Andy Green, where the attempt will be made to break the world land speed record later this month before a final attempt is made later on in the U.S.

Preparations and tests for this extraordinary project have been taking place for months and final engine tests were held in Britain before the biggest capacity Antonov plane soon brings Thrust SSC to the Kingdom.

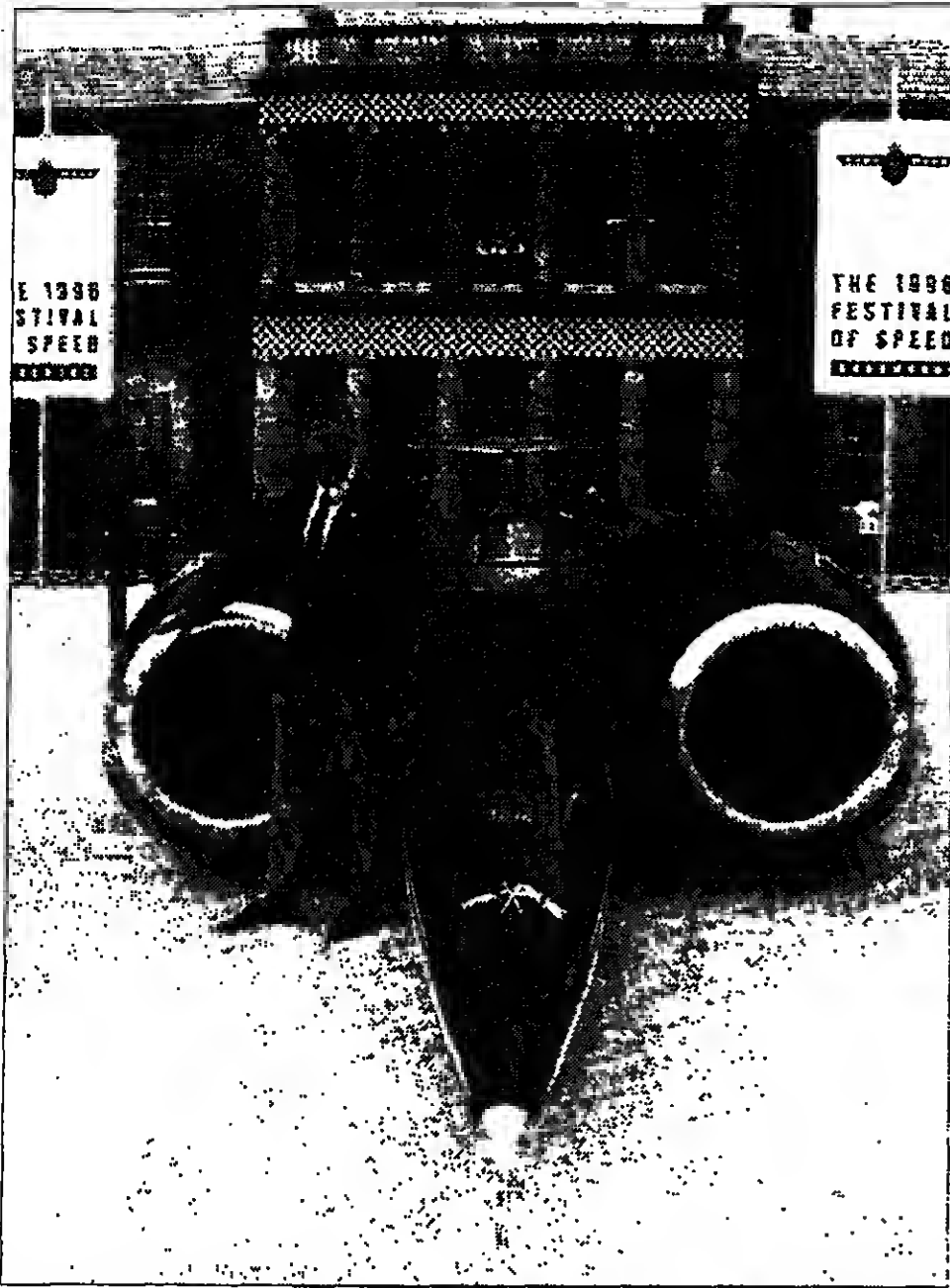
According to Castrol, one of the leading sponsors of the project, the car has already achieved speeds of more than 321kph in test runs in Britain.

Now, the Thrust team, headed by land speed record holder Richard Noble, is looking to more than treble that rate of progress across the haked mud flats of Al Jafr.

Thrust accelerates 48kph in less than a second with twin Rolls Royce Spey jet engines which propel the 10 tonne 16 metre-long vehicle.

Eventually Noble hopes the car will be able to travel at 1368 kph — well above the speed of sound and faster than most passenger airlines.

The testing of the twin



The Jet-powered Thrust SSC that will be making the attempt to break the land speed record in Al Jafr later this month

jet engine powered car in Jordan will be a build up to the scheduled attempt to beat Noble's current world

record of 1019.44 kilometres per hour.

The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre have been prepar-

ing the course where the attempt will be made.

RACJ will be timing the attempt on behalf of the international automobile association FIA. The event will also be closely monitored by speed enthusiasts worldwide via the Internet, FIA, the Mach Club and others.

According to project officials, Al Jafr was chosen by the head of the project, after he had scoured three continents and visited 14 other sites to find suitable conditions.

The track is a 16 kilometres-long stretch of very hard, very flat surface which is compacted mud and is expected to offer much better grip than sand.

Castrol have sponsored the research and development work for Thrust and will be providing lubricants for the Rolls Royce engines as well as for their aluminium alloy wheels which will rotate at 8500 rpm and have a massive heat build up.

Specially designed lubricants will be used to maintain the efficiency and peak performance of each of the 11,340 kilogramme thrust of the twin jet engines.

The Thrust SSC's construction is very similar to a supersonic prototype fighter. The carbon and aluminium body panels will produce an extremely stiff structure which will preserve its aerodynamic shape while experiencing the high stress of supersonic flight just 250 millimetres of the ground.

Rafter ends season with biggest win at Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG (AFP) — Australian Patrick Rafter waved goodbye to 1996 in the best possible way when he won the Hong Kong Championships here Monday for the biggest paycheck of his career.

The 23-year-old, who will take the rest of the year off, defeated American Vincent Spadea 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 in a final postponed Sunday because of rain to take home \$220,000.

"No matter how hard you try to put the money out of your mind, it is very difficult," Rafter said after his two hours and 35 minutes under a glorious sun.

"I'm sure Vince felt the same way. So it was a very tight match."

It was just waiting to someone to break out and fortunately, it was me."

Spadea also took home his biggest cash prize of \$65,000 having early this week been given a passage into the semi-finals.

Following the withdrawal of fourth-seeded Richey Reneberg, who was suffering from a stomach virus.

"It's been a strange tournament for me," said Spadea. "I've never been a lucky loser before in any tournament, so I'm happy that I was given this opportunity."

"But there were still things I was not happy with. There is a lot of improvement to be done in the future."

Rafter, who upset third-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the group matches, prevented the match from going into a fifth set when he broke back in the fourth to level at 4-4. Spadea, looking increasingly distracted, tried desperately to hang on and managed to save two match points before Rafter settled the final with an overhead smash.

Philippoussis wins 1st tournament

TOULOUSE (R) — Towering Australian Mark Philippoussis outscored Swede Magnus Larsson to win the first grand prix tournament of his career in Toulouse Sunday.

Philippoussis, who had previously reached finals in Scottsdale, Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo, beat Larsson 6-1 5-7 6-4 to claim the \$400,000 Toulouse indoor event.

The fourth-seeded Australian dedicated the victory to his manager Brad Robinson who died last week.

"All week I had to fight in three sets. I played with my guts and with all my heart, thinking about the man who was like a father to me," said Philippoussis, who turns 20 next month.

"I knew I had what it took to win a tournament. Now I'm happy and relieved." Philippoussis defeated world number one Pete Sampras at this year's Australian Open and said he had improved a great deal since then under the guidance of compatriot Peter McNamara.

"I don't want to be seen as just a big server. I have been working hard to become a versatile player," he said.

Larsson was overpowered in the first set but fought back to take the second. In the final set, a break in the seventh game was enough for Philippoussis to claim a deserved win.

The Swede, who slumped to 54th in the world rankings after an injury, said he hoped to gain a place in the Swedish team who host France in the Davis Cup final next month.

"Of course I want my place in the team back. I will do my utmost to get it back even though Thomas (Enqvist) and Stefan (Edberg) have played well and deserve it too," he said.



Pete Sampras

Sampras, Chang top ATP rankings

PARIS (AFP) — ATP men's tennis rankings issued Monday:

1 Pete Sampras (U.S.)	4,677 Pts
2 Michael Chang (U.S.)	3,724
3 Thomas Muster (Aut)	3,555
4 Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus)	3,253
5 Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	3,165
6 Boris Becker (Ger)	3,060
7 Richard Krajicek (Ned)	2,410
8 Wayne Ferreira (Rsa)	2,403
9 Andre Agassi (U.S.)	2,292
10 Marcelo Rios (Chi)	2,023
11 Todd Martin (U.S.)	1,905
12 Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	1,895
13 Malivai Washington (U.S.)	1,813
14 Alberto Costa (Spa)	1,798
15 Jim Courier (U.S.)	1,684
16 Felix Mantilla (Spa)	1,584
17 Stefan Edberg (Swe)	1,493
18 Alberto Berasategui (Spa)	1,489
19 Cedric Pioline (Fra)	1,488
20 Michael Stich (Ger)	1,480
21 Alex Corretja (Spa)	1,478
22 Arnaud Boetsch (Fra)	1,419
23 Marc Rosset (Svi)	1,381
24 Carlos Moya (Spa)	1,347
25 Tim Henman (Gbr)	1,327
26 Jan Siemerink (Ned)	1,295
27 Mark Woodforde (Aus)	1,275
28 Richey Reneberg (U.S.)	1,234
29 Paul Haarhuis (Ned)	1,223
30 Mark Philippoussis (Aus)	1,221

Barcelona, PSV score crushing wins to go top

Newcastle hand Manchester United worst defeat in 12 years

LONDON (R) — Newcastle scored five, Real Madrid managed six, PSV Eindhoven hit seven but Barcelona trumped them all with eight goals on a weekend of free-scoring across Europe.

A round-up of this weekend's major soccer league action from around the continent:

Spain Hristo Stoichkov and Brazilian stars Ronaldo and Giovanni turned Barcelona's game with Logrones into a personal scoring battle as the Catalans swept back to the top of the table with an 8-0 win Sunday.

With 20 points from eight games, Barcelona go two ahead of Real Madrid, who crushed Real Sociedad 6-1 on Saturday thanks to strikers Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic, who shared five goals between them.

Deportivo Coruna are level on points with Real after their relatively modest 2-0 win over Espanyol. Reigning champions Atletico Madrid dropped off the pace after losing an exciting match 3-1 to Valencia.

England Newcastle handed Manchester United their heaviest defeat in 12 years on Sunday, thrashing them 5-0 and avenging a string of heart-breaking recent losses at the hands of the champions.

Not since October 27 1984, when United lost 5-0 at Everton, has the biggest club in British soccer been so humiliated.

The result takes Kevin Keegan's side to the top of the Premier League with 24 points, five clear of United and three ahead of London

sides Arsenal and Wimbledon.

Liverpool, whose Merseyside derby against Everton was washed out by torrential rain earlier on Sunday, are fourth with a game in hand.

The Netherlands PSV Eindhoven thrashed Feyenoord Rotterdam 7-2 to regain the lead in the Dutch first division in a match packed with drama and goals.

The Rotterdamers scored the first and last of the match, but the rest of the evening belonged to PSV, who went into the match shaken by their 2-1 European Cup Winners' Cup defeat against Norway's Brann Bergen and missing goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus and skipper Arthur Numan through suspension.

Champions Ajax Amsterdam needed an equaliser six minutes from time against lowly Volendam to save them from their first league defeat at their New Arena Stadium, despite the return from injury of striker Patrick Kluyvert.

Germany in stark contrast to the rest of Europe, the big Bundesliga games finished goalless.

A brilliant performance from goalkeeper Stefan Klos helped reigning champions Borussia Dortmund clinch a 0-0 draw at Bayern Munich in their top-of-the-table clash on Sunday.

Bayern stay level on points with leaders VfB Stuttgart who also drew 0-0 at Bayer Leverkusen. Dortmund are fourth, four points behind the leading duo.



Frenchmen Inter player Youri Djorkaeff (R) is tackled by Uruguayan Paolo Montero 2-0 (Reuters photo)

In Italy European champions Juventus opened up a one-point lead at the top of

Serie A after goals from France's Zinedine Zidane and Yugoslav Vladimir

Jugovic ruined Inter Milan's unbeaten record in Turin.

The win leaves Juventus with 13 points from six matches, one ahead of AC Milan, who put successive league and European Cup defeats behind them with a 3-1 home win over Napoli. George Weah scored twice and Roberto Baggio added a third.

Roy Hodgson's Inter leaders at the start of the day and unbeaten in the league since May, drop to third with 11 points.

France leaders Paris St. Germain were held 1-1 by champions Auxerre, who equalised through a last minute penalty from Stoine Sihierski. Defender Benoit Cauet had put PSG ahead.

Nigeria's Viktor Ikpeba led Monaco to a 4-1 victory over neighbouring Nice, taking the principality team to second. Brazil's Sonny Anderson also scored twice.

Scotland Glasgow Rangers' Paul Gascoigne, who called himself "a disgrace" for being sent off against Ajax on Wednesday, ended a traumatic week on a slightly better note with an outstanding goal against Aberdeen.

But his goal was not enough to bring Rangers a much-needed Scottish League victory as they allowed Aberdeen to escape with a 2-2 draw.

Celtic did much the same on Sunday at Hearts, conceding an injury-time goal in a 2-2 draw. A win would have taken them to the top of the league.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Emilio Estevez & Dennis Leary ... in JUDGEMENT NIGHT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:69238 PLAZA Ahmad Zaki & Yusra...in WHIMS (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 8:30 THE SCARLET LETTER Shows: 12:30, 6:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" NASER 56 Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45	AMMAN THEATRE & CINEMA TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubishat Play starts 8:30 p.m.	NABIL & HISHAM'S THEATRE TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Houston Oilers wide receiver Willie Davis completes a nine yard pass from quarterback Chris Chandler as Pittsburgh Steelers Deon Figures makes the tackle during the fourth quarter. The Oilers beat the Steelers 23-13 at the Astrodome in Houston (Reuters photo)

Young leads 49ers to victory

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Steve Young, hobbled by a strained groin muscle, rolled left and ran 15 yards for a touchdown with 68 seconds left as the San Francisco 49ers rallied from down 21-0 to beat the Cincinnati Bengals 28-21.

Young, who missed San Francisco's last three games due to the groin injury, had hit rookie Terrell Owens with a 45-yard touchdown pass with 2:08 left to tie the game at 21-21.

Young aggravated the injury when he was sacked in the second quarter and was replaced by Elvis Grbac with the Niners trailing 14-0. But Grbac hurt his left shoulder late in the second quarter, forcing young to return.

Young played the entire second half and directed three touchdown drives for a win that kept the 49ers (5-2) tied with the Carolina Panthers for first place in the NFC West.

At Denver, John Elway threw for 329 yards and three touchdowns, all to Ed McCaffrey, as the Broncos rallied for 14 fourth-quarter points to beat the Baltimore Ravens 45-34.

Elway clinched victory with a nine-yard dash for a score with 1:16 to play. Baltimore fell to 2-5.

AFC West leaders Denver (6-1) trailed 34-31 when Elway directed a 10-play, 57-yard march for the go-ahead score.

In Houston, Willie Davis and rookie Eddie George scored fourth-quarter touchdowns less than two

minutes apart as the Houston Oilers moved into a first-place tie in the AFC Central Division with a 23-13 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Oilers (5-2) gained a measure of revenge for a 30-16 setback at Pittsburgh (5-2) three weeks ago. In that game, the Oilers were beaten and beat up as there were three separate brawls that led to 35 players being fined a total \$145,000.

In Dallas, Troy Aikman hooked up with Kelvin Martin on a 60-yard touchdown pass with 1:42 remaining to lift the Dallas Cowboys to a 32-28 victory over the winless Atlanta Falcons.

In Washington, the Redskins opened up a 28-point lead and survived a New York comeback to post a 31-21 victory.

New York (2-5) trailed 28-0 at the half but battled back to 28-21 before Washington's late field goal iced it.

In Philadelphia, Ty Detmer threw four TD passes to former dolphin Irving Fryar and Ricky Walters scored on a 49-yard run with 2:28 left as the Eagles downed Miami 35-28.

Detmer, making his second career start in place of the injured Rodney Peete, completed 18-of-24 passes for 224 yards.

At Carolina, John Kasay kicked four field goals and Kerry Collins tossed a 13-yard touchdown pass to Mark Carrier as the Panthers beat the New Orleans Saints 19-7.

The second-year Panthers (5-2) tallied 21 first downs and 314 yards total offense while holding New Orleans (2-6) to just 10 first downs and 174 yards. Carolina remained tied for the NFC West lead.

In Indianapolis, Curtis Martin rushed for two third-quarter touchdowns to lead the new England Patriots to a 27-9 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

The win improved the Patriots to 4-3 and moved them within one game of Indianapolis (5-2) and Buffalo in the AFC East.

Indianapolis quarterback Jim Harbaugh suffered a broken nose after being sacked by defensive end Willie McGinest midway through the fourth quarter and did not return.

At New York, Steve Christie's team-record sixth field goal of the game, a 47-yarder with 10 seconds remaining, gave the Buffalo Bills a 25-22 victory over the winless New York Jets.

In St. Louis, Tony Banks scrambled 22 yards to set up the go-ahead score and Jacksonville failed to get off a potential game-tying field goal in the final seconds as the Rams edged the Jaguars 17-14.

Trailing 14-10 early in the fourth quarter, the Rams (2-5) moved 56 yards in nine plays for the go-ahead score. The Jaguars (3-5) drove inside the St. Louis 10 but were not able to stop the clock before the gun sounded.

At Arizona, Kent Graham tossed a five-yard touchdown pass to Larry Centres and Greg Davis kicked two field goals as the Arizona Cardinals defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 13-9.

Arizona improved to 3-4, while Tampa Bay dropped to 1-6.

Yankees look ahead after getting bombed 12-1 by Braves

NEW YORK (R) — The Yankees had their opening night World Series party ruined by the ram-paging Braves on Sunday, but the New Yorkers insisted the 12-1 shellacking administered by Atlanta would not prey on their minds.

"They beat our butts tonight," said Darryl Strawberry, who played a flawless left field in game 1 despite a hairline fracture of his right big toe.

"Tomorrow we have a different approach. Even though we didn't play well tonight, this game is over. This is not going to play on our mind. The game is over, we lost and it's time to turn the page."

Yankee third baseman Wade Boggs, who snapped out of a post-season slump with a pair of hits that represented half of New York's measly four-hit attack, said: "We ran up against a buzz saw tonight."

But Boggs said there would be no panic from the Yanks. "That's why it's a seven-game series. They don't name a world champion after one game. There's a lot of baseball left and you have to keep your head up."

Bernie Williams and Derek Jeter, who led the Yankees to the World

Series with their performances against Texas and Baltimore in the American League playoffs, went a combined 0-for-6 in game 1, but are not ready to make any concessions.

"They came prepared," Williams said of the Braves. "We just have to put this behind us. We have to come out fresh tomorrow and start over."

"We've been coming from behind all year," Jeter said. "Give the Braves credit, they pretty much closed the door tonight. But we've been here before and they still have to win three more games."

After 4,272 games as a Major League player and manager, Yankee skipper Joe Torre expected his first-ever World Series game to be memorable, but it turned out to be a game he will try to forget.

"I didn't wait for this game," Torre said. "I waited for the series. I'm going to enjoy the series, but I didn't tonight."

"We just want to come back tomorrow and get the taste out of my mouth."



New York Yankee pitcher Andy Pettitte throws the first pitch of the 1996 World Series to Atlanta Braves Marquis Grissom at Yankee Stadium. The Atlanta Braves demolished the New York Yankees 12-1 in the World Series opener (Reuters photo)

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Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK QK QJ 943 CQ 64 AK 8

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 Pass 2a Pass 3c Pass 3a Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AK QK QJ 943 CQ 64 AK 8

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 Pass 2a Pass 3c Pass 3a Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK QK QJ 943 CQ 64 AK 8

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 Pass 2a Pass 3c Pass 3a Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK QK QJ 943 CQ 64 AK 8

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 Pass 2a Pass 3c Pass 3a Pass

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Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Al Hassan will represent **Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan**, President of the Young Muslim Women's Association, at the opening night of the 11th Italian Film Week in Jordan organised by the Embassy of Italy and the Ministry of Culture. The Italian film week will take place from October 22 and until the 29th, 1996 at the Main Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre. All films are in Italian with English subtitles. Entrance ticket is one dinar for adults and 500 fils for students. Proceeds to go to the Young Muslim Women's Association Centre for Special Education. The YMWA Centre for Special Education caters for 175 mentally challenged students. It offers education and training for its students in woodwork, ceramics, weaving, horticulture and window washing. Most students enrolled at the Centre are unable to meet the full cost of their education and student fees alone cover only 10% of the Centre's running cost. The Centre depends heavily on donations from its generous sponsors. The YMWA's fund-raising activities and donations have allowed the Centre to continue to serve the less privileged members of our community.

PROGRAMME

1) Sostiene Pereira (Pereira Holds)	22/10	8:00 p.m.
Director: Roberto Faenza	23/10	5:00 p.m.
2) Regalo di Natale (Christmas Present)	23/10	8:00 p.m.
Director: Pupi Avati	24/10	5:00 p.m.
3) Romanzo di un giovane povero (The Story of a Poor Young Man)	24/10	8:00 p.m.
Director: Ettore Scola	25/10	5:00 p.m.
4) Una storia semplice (A Simple Story)	26/10	8:00 p.m.
Director: Emidio Greco	27/10	5:00 p.m.
5) Per grazia ricevuta (For Favours Received)	27/10	8:00 p.m.
Director: Nino Mantredi	28/10	5:00 p.m.
6) Nemici d'infanzia (Childhood Enemies)	28/10	8:00 p.m.
	29/10	5:00 p.m.

EU refuses to be a mere Mideast banker — Italy

CAIRO (Agencies) — Italy said on Monday that Europe refused to be mere paymaster to the partners in Middle East peace talks and must eventually take on a political role to match its dominant economic presence.

But Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi told reporters in Cairo that Europe had no immediate ambitions to mediate directly between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Israel rejected on Sunday a demand by French President Jacques Chirac that Europe act as joint sponsor of Middle East peace negotiations but said Europe still had an important role in supporting Middle East economies.

Mr. Prodi, speaking after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said it was unrealistic to try to separate political influence and economic contacts.

"Do you think that Europe will be forever the payer and that's all? Do you think this would be realistic — that we shall go on paying for years and years and increasing our economic presence and just shut up?" he said.

"I know we can't pretend to be mediators in the

process. But I doubt we would go on doing this job for an indefinite period. It's nice to have an uncle who pays for everything but this is only in tales, not in reality," he added.

The European Union (EU) is by far the largest single donor of aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), way ahead of the United States, and it is the biggest trading partner for most countries in the region, including Israel.

In the case of Egypt, Italy alone is the second largest importer of Egyptian goods and the biggest exporter to Egypt.

Mr. Prodi said the EU's attempt to assert its presence in the Middle East was a long-term plan and it did not expect immediate results.

The EU, at a meeting in Dublin last month, decided to appoint a special envoy to keep an eye on Middle East peace talks but it has not yet named the envoy.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "encourages Italy to go ahead with the idea of naming an EU special envoy and gradually increasing the European role in the area," Mr. Prodi told journalists after talks with Mr. Mubarak.

"I never talked about mediation. Now it is a role of presence but it will increase in the future. When there is a presence of such a big entity as the European one the result sooner or later will come. We are not pushing for immediate results," Mr. Prodi said.

"There is already a strong presence of Europe here. We must translate into action what already exists," he added.

He said that his visit to Egypt and French President Jacques Chirac's tour of the region "are parallel," and added, "I hope that they will both contribute to peace in the Middle East."

He said that President Mubarak was encouraging Europe but was also pessimistic that it could achieve quick results.

Mr. Mubarak tried to persuade Mr. Prodi that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had changed his attitude to the West and was now trying to be cooperative, Mr. Prodi added.

Libya, also an important trading partner for Italy, was under limited U.N. sanctions since 1992 because it refuses to let Britain or the United States

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq fails to clear doubts about banned missiles, Ekeus asserts

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has failed to clear up lingering doubts about how many ballistic missiles and other banned weapons it retains, U.N. disarmament envoy Rolf Ekeus said Monday.

"We have not cleared up any more issues than what has been reported in our (Oct. 11) report to the Security Council," Mr. Ekeus told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Iraq.

Iraq has still not accounted for between six and 16 long-range ballistic missiles like the Scuds fired on Israel and Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Gulf war, Mr. Ekeus added. "Our ambition now is to narrow the number."

Mr. Ekeus, who chairs the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, said that during his talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and other officials "we have narrowed our disagreement" on

how to tackle outstanding issues.

He also met Oil Minister Amir Rasheed, Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf and Daif Abdul Majid, head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation since arriving in Baghdad on Saturday.

Mr. Ekeus, who was accompanied by ballistic missile specialist Nikita Smidovich of Russia and other experts, said he received no new documents from Iraq in his latest trip which he described as generally "positive" and "useful."

The former Swedish diplomat travels to Baghdad every two months to test a pledge Iraq gave in June to grant unrestricted access to suspect sites in return for U.N. guarantees against violating its sovereignty.

Before leaving New York, Mr. Ekeus said Thursday he was not optimistic about his trip but urged Baghdad to

demonstrate "political will" to end the concealment of weapons of mass destruction from U.N. monitors.

He said it would be a "major achievement" if Iraq could account for a number of long-range missiles which could be armed with biological or chemical weapons to reach neighbouring states.

UNSCOM is attempting to verify Iraqi claims that it has unilaterally destroyed a total of 85 long-range missiles.

He also reiterated Thursday that UNSCOM continued to have concerns about Iraq's biological and chemical weapons capability.

UNSCOM must certify that Iraq has accounted for all its weapons of mass destruction before the U.N. Security Council can lift a crippling oil embargo imposed in August 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Young Taliban chieftain shuns limelight

ISLAMABAD (R) — Revered by his men as "amir al momineen" (commander of the faithful), the Afghan Taliban's youthful leader has kept a low public profile even after his bearded warriors seized Kabul last month.

Mullah Mohammad Omar, 32, launched the Taliban movement of religious students in the southern province of Kandahar in 1994.

The reclusive leader has not emerged from his Kandahar headquarters to share in the triumph of his fighters who routed other factions to conquer the Afghan capital on Sept. 27.

Mr. Omar was born in the central province of Uruzgan and studied in several Islamic schools before joining the jihad (holy war) against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

He rose to deputy chief commander in the guerrilla party Harakat-e-Islami of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi during the war in which he was wounded and lost one eye.

In April 1996, an assembly of about 1,000 Muslim clerics chose him as amir al momineen, denouncing President Burhanuddin Rabbani as unfit to lead an Islamic country.

Assisted by a council of religious scholars, Mr. Omar wants to get rid of "corrupt" guerrilla factions and impose a strict version of Islamic Sharia law throughout Afghanistan.

Here are brief biographies of other Afghan leaders:

— Burhanuddin Rabbani, the ousted Afghan president, leads the Jamiat-e-Islami party, which was probably the largest

of the factions which fought against Soviet occupation.

An ethnic Tajik from the mountainous northeastern province of Badkhashan and a former professor of Islamic law at Kabul University, he became president in late 1992 for an interim period but extended his term and antagonised most other parties.

— Ahmad Shah Masood is a former defence minister and Mr. Rabbani's army chief, known as the "Lion of Panjsher" for his exploits against Soviet forces in his Panjsher Valley redoubt.

He played a key role in the guerrilla takeover in April 1992 by moving his forces into Kabul after striking an alliance with former communist northern General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Mr. Masood won renown as the strongest Afghan guerrilla leader against the Soviets and was Mr. Rabbani's strongman. He withdrew to Panjsher as Kabul fell, but has since driven the Taliban back to the Bagram area, 50 kilometres north of the capital.

— General Abdul Rashid Dostum is a former pro-communist Uzbek chief whose defection to the guerrillas played a key role in the collapse of the communist government in 1992. He leads the Jumbish-e-Milli movement based in the north.

With his own army and a small air force, he controls six northern provinces. He joined then Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in January 1994 in a failed bid to drive Mr.

Rabbani and Mr. Masood out of Kabul, starting a destructive round of fighting.

He stayed out of the conflict between the Taliban and the Kabul government, while continuing to oppose Mr. Rabbani. In September, he struck an informal truce with Mr. Rabbani to allow the reopening of the Salang Pass that links Kabul with the north.

— Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, 45, leads Hezb-e-Islami, once the most disciplined of the anti-Soviet guerrilla groups. Dynamic and outspoken, Hekmatyar, from the northern province of Kunduz, became involved in Islamic politics at Kabul University's engineering faculty in 1968.

He was jailed for 18 months under then King Zahir Shah and then fought against President Mohammad Daoud's republican government before fleeing into exile in Pakistan in 1974.

Mr. Hekmatyar was prime minister from March 1993 until January 1994, when he allied himself with Gen. Dostum in the failed coup to oust Mr. Rabbani. He was appointed to the same position last June under a peace pact with Mr. Rabbani that was opposed by Gen. Dostum.

— Yunus Khalis, 74, is a religious scholar and Pashtu poet from the eastern province of Nangarhar who leads his own Hezb-e-Islami (Khalis) faction which he formed after fleeing to Pakistan in 1975 and splitting with Mr. Hekmatyar.

Sporting a distinctive beard dyed orange with henna, he

declared support for the Taliban last month.

— Abdurrahman Sayyaf, a former professor of Islamic law at Kabul University, leads the pro-Rabbani Ittehad-e-Islami.

Mr. Sayyaf, a fluent Arabic speaker who had close contacts with Saudi Arabia during the anti-Soviet struggle, worked for the Islamic movement in the days of Zahir Shah and Daoud.

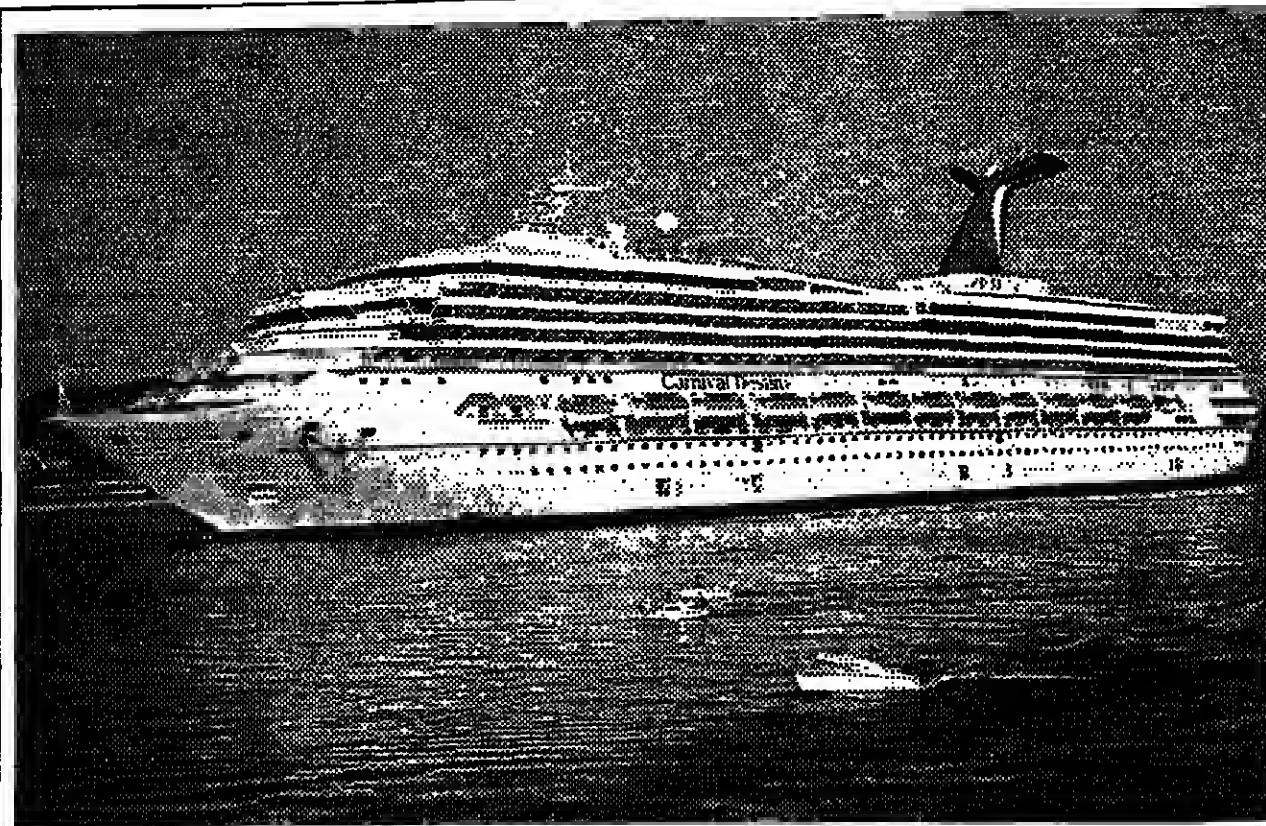
He was arrested in the communist takeover of 1978 despite being a relative of Hafizullah Amin, the communist party leader killed during the Soviet intervention next year.

— Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, an elderly scholar and former member of parliament, leads Harakat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami.

It became the largest faction soon after the Soviet intervention because of his influence among conservative clergy. He took no sides between Mr. Rabbani and his opponents.

— Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, 70, is a scion of a leading Afghan family and heads Jabha-e-Nijai-e-Milli. He became Afghanistan's first interim Islamic president in April 1992, giving way to Mr. Rabbani three months later. His family has close ties with ex-King Zahir Shah and has campaigned for his return.

— Syed Ahmad Gailani, the most Westernised of the Afghan party leaders, heads Mahaz-e-Milli-e-Islami and has tried to mobilise support for a return of Zahir Shah.



LARGEST PASSENGER SHIP: 'Carnival Destiny,' the largest cruise ship in the world, taller than the Statue of Liberty, was delivered on Saturday after completion by shipbuilder Fincantieri, the Italian group said. The 270-metre vessel was completed in 20 months and is big enough for 3,400 passengers and 1,000 crew with 16 decks and 1,320 cabins, most of which have ocean views (Reuters photo)

'U.S. warned Israel of risk of conflict with Syria'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The United States has warned Israel that the deadlock in peace talks with Damascus could lead to military conflict with Syria, the Haaretz newspaper reported Monday.

The newspaper said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher gave the warning during a Sept. 16 meeting with Israel's ambassador in Washington, Elyahu Ben-Elissar.

Mr. Christopher also read the Israeli envoy a letter sent by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to U.S. President Bill Clinton warning that "all options will be open" if there is no movement on the Israeli-Syrian track in the next few

weeks, Haaretz said.

When asked by Mr. Ben-Elissar why Washington had not protested to Assad over the threatening statement, Mr. Christopher said: "In the Middle East, you either advance towards peace or you deteriorate," the newspaper reported.

The Haaretz report came a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Syria to resume peace negotiations and defuse mounting tension between the two neighbours.

"Syria must understand that an escalation is not in the interests of either country, and so it preferable to return to the negotiating table," Mr. Netanyahu told

reporters Sunday during a visit to the army's central command headquarters.

"We are closely following the situation in Syria and are taking into account the possibility that the Syrians have intentions contrary to our own," the prime minister added.

He was referring to Syrian troop redeployments in Lebanon and near the northern tip of the Golan Heights, which Israeli military officials have interpreted as a hostile gesture.

Israel responded by reinforcing its military presence in the Golan.

The Israeli army has demanded a \$300 million budget increase in next year's defence budget on

the grounds of the increased threat of war with Syria, the Yedioth Aharonot newspaper reported Sunday.

Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been frozen since February when they were suspended by Israel's previous labour government amid a rash of suicide bombings in Israel.

Since coming to office in June, Mr. Netanyahu has refused Syrian demands they be resumed where they had left off with the Labour government — with an agreement in principle linking a peace treaty to an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Netanyahu unlikely to go soon — Peres

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Benjamin Netanyahu is firmly entrenched as Israeli prime minister and there is little chance he will be ousted in the near future, Labour Party leader and former Premier Shimon Peres said here Monday.

"I don't see it right now," said Mr. Peres, who is on a brief, unofficial visit to South Africa. "We have foolishly changed our electoral system and that makes it even more complicated," he added, referring to the system of electing a prime minister in terms of which Mr. Peres himself lost his job in the May poll.

Mr. Peres also ruled out the possibility of a military coup — "not in our country."

The former leader said there is growing opposition to the policies of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party but there is no objective way of measuring it.

On Sunday, Mr. Peres held talks here with President Nelson Mandela and awarded him a peace award, on behalf of the Jewish philanthropist group International Leadership Reunion (ILR), for his contribution to South Africa's democratic transition.

Mr. Mandela has postponed until next year a visit to the Middle East, which was originally scheduled for next month.

French diplomat kidnapped in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — Armed tribesmen on Monday kidnapped a French diplomat here following a dispute with the Yemeni government over land in the capital's diplomatic quarters, police and diplomats said.

Touayman tribesmen abducted the diplomat after seizing his car in a residential neighbourhood near the embassy in Sanaa, police said. They drove off with him to the Maarib region, about 180 kilometres to the east.

In Paris, the French foreign ministry confirmed the kidnapping and said it was being kept fully informed.

"The French embassy in Sanaa is following this affair very closely, and is in contact with the Yemeni authorities," said a ministry spokesman, declining further comment.

The French embassy here declined to disclose the name of its kidnapped staff member.

Diplomats in Sanaa said the Touayman had threatened to kidnap diplomats last week to blackmail the government into compensating the tribe amid a conflict with the authorities over land it claims in the diplomatic quarter.

One tribesman was shot to death and four people were wounded, including two policemen, during a clash over the disputed land on May 26.

Yemeni tribes frequently kidnap foreigners, including diplomats, to try to obtain demands from their government.

Yemeni officials said the same tribe kidnapped the agriculture minister's driver 10 days ago, then released him later without his car.

In January, Al Aslam tribesmen kidnapped 17 French tourists and took them to Maarib, demanding that the authorities release a tribe member imprisoned for having

(Continued on page 3)

Development and environment clash on Cyprus beach

NICOSIA (AFP) — An idyllic strip of Mediterranean beach in Cyprus has become the prize in a bitter tug-of-war between powerful developers and environmentalists concerned for the future of a rare sea turtle.

Government advisors and environmentalists are suing to halt construction of a five-star hotel by the Cypriot foreign minister's family on the beach where endangered turtles nest.

The Thanos Hotels Company, owned by Foreign Minister Alectos Michaelides' family, is working "24 hours a day," with floodlights at night, to complete the hotel before the two cases are decided, according to a Greenpeace official.

The building's "shell" has already been finished, Greenpeace Mediterranean Executive Director Mario Damato told reporters.

The hotel is being constructed in a "protected zone" on Akamas Peninsula, the 230-square-kilometre western tip of Cyprus, a Greenpeace report said, adding that Akamas beaches are nesting sites of endangered green turtles and vulnerable loggerhead turtles.

Vulnerable is the next step to endangered, which means threatened with extinction.

"If these beaches are lost, they (green turtles) could easily become extinct," Mr. Damato said.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature puts the number of green turtles nesting annually in the entire Mediterranean at 325 to 375.

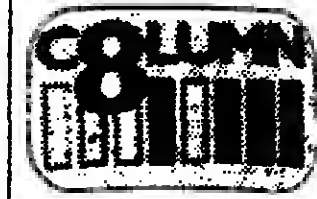
Their main nesting areas are Cyprus and southern Turkey, with a tiny number going to Israel, Mr. Damato said.

Light and movement can inhibit the turtles from laying eggs, a Greenpeace report said. The hotel would directly affect an 80,000-square-metre area, it added.

"The hotel is not illegal," as Greenpeace claims, said Nicos Georgiades, director of the environment service of the ministry of agriculture, natural resources and environ-

ment.

But a loosening of Cypriot law to allow construction of the 352-bed hotel is being challenged in two lawsuits, filed by the Friends of Akamas, a Cypriot ecological group, and the Cypriot technical chamber, a body of scientists which advises the government. Both lawsuits aim to stop the hotel's construction.



Thieves make off with gold in daylight heist

RABAT (AFP) — Thieves in southern Morocco made off with 45 kilograms of gold after clearing the shelves at a jewellery shop in broad daylight, a newspaper said Monday. The owners of the Fibula shop in the centre of the town of Agadir had failed to switch on their alarm and video camera, L'Opinion said, adding that the crime, which took place Thursday, was the first of its kind in Agadir.

Oscar-winning clay figures missing in New York

NEW YORK (R) — The violent weather that lashed the U.S. northeast Saturday may have claimed two more victims — Wallace and Gromit, the stars of last year's Oscar-winning short, A Close Shave. The two were last seen Saturday in their travel case, along with their motorcycle and sidecar, in the back of a New York City taxi cab after their creator, Nick Park, arrived for a publicity tour. A porter at park's hotel failed to see the case in the cab's trunk, and the driver drove away with the two nine-inch (22 cms) plastic figures held captive. Police said Sunday that the loss had been reported but that so far no one had contacted them regarding the duo's whereabouts. Mr. Park was not at his hotel Sunday evening and was possibly out searching the canyons of midtown Manhattan for his lost progeny. He said in media reports the figures were probably worth over \$10,000.

Malaysia extends Jacko's concert by another day

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia Monday approved the extension of U.S. pop superstar Michael Jackson's first concert here by another day after overwhelming demand from his fans. Ticket holders risked being unable to see Jackson after the venue for his concert was changed to a smaller stadium, said Sabaruddin Chik, Malaysia's culture, arts and tourism minister. "We have been informed by the organisers that almost all the tickets have been sold out, so the government is allowing the concert to be extended by another day," Mr. Chik was reported saying by Bernama news agency. Jackson's History World Tour 96 will be held on Oct. 27 and 29 at the Merdeka Stadium which can seat 42,000. The mega popstar was originally scheduled to perform on Oct. 27 at the 90,000-seat Shah Alam Stadium in central Selangor state but authorities there banned the concert on religious and cultural grounds. However, Malaysia's cabinet Wednesday gave the go-ahead for Jackson's concert, saying the decision to allow the concert was made before Jackson was invited here.

Beauty has no bounds in Vietnam

HANOI (R) — Vietnam announced Monday the winner of a national beauty contest ... for jailkeepers. The People's Police newspaper published a picture of the proud first-prize winner, Pham Ngoc Tam, head of the Women's Association at a jail to the southeast of Hanoi. The photo showed a middle-aged woman, in uniform and probably best described as being handsome. Vietnam prides itself on the beauty of its women and contests are held regularly for occupations ranging from street cleaners to market hawkers.